

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

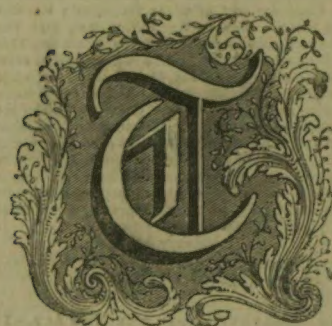


No 139.—Vol. V.]

FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1844.

[SIXPENCE.]

OPENING OF THE FRENCH CHAMBERS.



HE opening of the French Chambers, which took place on Thursday last, gives the first impulse to that revival of activity in political affairs which is followed up by the commencement of our own Session. The policy pursued by the Cabinets of England and France is of the utmost importance to the whole of Europe; they are the active powers of the western world; their Governments are, to a certain extent, the creations of the will of the people, and the popular opinion has a powerful influence over them. The state of parties in either of them has, therefore, a continual interest to the people of both.

The necessity—or rather the custom—of making Royal speeches to elective assemblies as vague and general as possible, renders the address of the King of the French, which is no exception to the practice, of less value than it might be, as an indication of the probable course of affairs. But if what it does say is rather indistinct, something may still be inferred from what it does not say; the omission of certain topics and allusions is frequently as expressive as any words could be. First of all, then, we may gather from his Majesty's address, the certainty that the war fever has abated, and that there is a return, on the part of the French journals and their readers, to the condition of reason and common sense. The King speaks of peace, and sincerely do we rejoice that he does so; but he can do more than this; he can venture to make a distinct allusion to the satisfactory relations between the two countries, and the removal of all pretext for a misunderstanding between them. This is the result to which time and events have long been tending. Such a dispute as that which sprung out of the Protectorate of Otaheite, never could be permitted by so astute a monarch as Louis Philippe, and two such clear-headed Ministers as Peel and Guizot, to come to hostilities. The French themselves have found out, what the English press long ago told them, that a petty island in a distant sea could not be worth taking by either power. Poor Queen Pomare's "coconut empire" could afford nothing to a conqueror—not even the empty vanity of glory. To fancy that they were

striking a blow at England by the occupation of such a place, was one of the wildest notions that could enter the rather flighty head of "Young France." The public has awakened to the true state of the case at last; the "Protectorate" is disavowed; Dupetit Thouars has returned home; and the war party, instead of finding him indignant at seeing his work undone, hear him agreeing that his Government have a perfect right to do as it pleases—that, in fact, he rather approves their censure of him; and finally, that all the "Haters of Albion" and "Friends of Liberty," who subscribed their half francs, and sous, and centimes to purchase him a "sword of honour," might as well have kept their money, for the sword he positively will not accept. The Admiral is not going to make himself a martyr to a popular delusion, and has too much good sense to indulge his vanity by an acceptance of a gift which would be followed by the certain loss of his commission. Thus M. Thiers and the French Opposition are made bankrupt of all the "political capital" which they had hoped to find in the Tahiti question. It is worn threadbare; it is old, which in France is fatal to its efficacy; and, more fatal still, it has been turned into ridicule. Queen Pomare and Mr. Pritchard succeeded the paragon of the Emperor of Morocco. Tahiti is no longer so much a grievance as a jest.

Another topic introduced into the speech of the King has an especial interest for us; he refers to the reception he met with from the Queen of England, and the hospitality of which he was the object. He expresses the gratification he feels not only on his own account but on that of France also; considering that to draw closer the relations between the two countries is the best guarantee for a general peace. The open and frank allusion made to this visit is another proof that the ravings of the war party have been utterly futile. Its organs asserted that the visit was a humiliation to France, a triumph to England, a weakness in Louis Philippe, and that its consequences would shake the Orleans dynasty. Had it but one-tenth of the importance they attributed to it, the Ministry would never have ventured to put it into the King's speech. There never was, perhaps, an instance of a party making so much noise with so little reason for it. The result is the very natural one of its not finding any real sympathy from those who are the real strength of the nation. We long hope to see a good understanding between the Tuileries and Windsor; not that the personal intercourse between the monarchs of England and France could create the same friendly feeling between the respective people, but because it may be taken as a certain indication that this mutual good feeling exists.

On the part of the speech relating to the "triumphs of the

French arms in Africa," we shall not dwell. In Algiers the French have created for themselves a great difficulty; it is a conquest with no gain and but little glory. The victors of Austerlitz and Jena needed not the only laurels they could gather on such a field as that of Islay; and the little military renown that has been won is more than outweighed by the folly and absurdity that has made the civil government of the colony a curse to it. The last accounts state the blunders and mismanagement of the civil officers to have been so outrageous, that "there is not a French proprietor in Algeria who does not wish that the English would come and change places with their French masters." It is to cover all this, and give the people something in return for the enormous sums Algiers costs them, that the flourish about the triumphs of the French arms is made. If the French will take phrases for facts, and be content with empty glory, and scarcely that, as the return for wasted means and squandered wealth, it is their own concern, not ours.

Having thus run over the chief topics of the King's speech, we may briefly allude to its omissions, which, too, are not without their significance.

The part that France has taken in the affairs of Spain, and the disastrous issue of that interference, might have been mentioned, and would have been so, had not the subject been inconvenient. More than two hundred persons shot without trial in the course of twelve months for political opinions, a Constitution destroyed, and all power lodged in the hands of a bloody-minded soldier and a profligate Queen, could hardly be presented to any people in any manner that would not cause disgust and abhorrence. Spain is the blot on the Ministry of M. Guizot. It is one of those things on which silence is prudence.

The Right of Search question is not alluded to, so it may be taken for granted that nothing has been concluded upon it. And his Majesty does not press on the Chambers his demand for an allowance to the Duke of Nemours as future Regent. The demand would give a dangerous weapon to the Opposition; it is therefore postponed, but not, we fancy, abandoned.

The opening of the Chambers finds the present French Ministry strong enough to defy the attacks of an Opposition not well united and not furnished by events with facts that would enable them to prove the incapacity of the Government. The war-cry has failed, the Tahiti question is worn out, the Right of Search is pending, the Revenue is in a tolerably sound condition, and as far as peace is secured by the continuance of M. Guizot in power, we may congratulate both nations that his position at present seems so well secured.



CHRISTMAS, BY ALFRED CROWQUILL.—See next page.

A SONG TO CHRISTMAS.

Hail to thee, Father Christmas! a blessing on your brow!
These sixty years you never seemed so worshipful as now.
Of late I've felt dying, and weariness and low,
I joy to see your reverend face, once more before I go.
Aye! you are come right sweet to brighten up my soul,
And to spice the last sweet drop that clings to life's enchanting bowl.
When you appear again, this hand will be in the cold ground,
And other ears than mine will hear the bells' rejoicing sound.

You come to tap old barrels, and to spread the dainty cheer,
To sing old Christmas Carols to the sad declining year;
And with ivy and with holly, your wand is bright and green,
And like a sheet of moonlight stars your whitened beard is seen:
The trees have lost their lively birds, the earth is wild below,
And the dark-eyed robin redbreast sings its ditty in the snow;
But a blessing from the "manger-side" dispels the winter storm,
And in spite of wind and icicles, the human heart grows warm.

How linked with goodness are the songs that hum from door to door,
As blessed are the tripping chimneys that sweetly rang of yore
Above the tombs of saintly men whose charity was pure,
And who feasted with their bondsmen and frolicked with the poor.
We read the Holy Word of God, and hold its precepts dear,
But Christmas always teaches us to practise what we hear,
To overflow with kindness, to emulate the "child"
Who was so poor in Bethlehem—and hold us pure and mild.

Oh! what delight it is to think of childhood's generous days!
The banquet of our parents dear, the "yule log's" flick'ring blaze;
Our brothers and our sisters—the laugh, the dance, the song,
And brave old servants, clustering near all in a faithful throng,
With little lively children, the darlings of the scene,
Like furies frisking to the sound of harp and tambourine;
The wassail bowl, the parading round, also the silver cup
That ended with the kitchen folks that all might have their sup!

Right Reverend Father Christmas! my heart beats proud and high,
I'll drain the sole remaining flask, and wish the world good-bye!
We will say a prayer together, we will sing an ancient rhyme,
For the greatest good I ever did, was done at Christmas-time!
And we'll send a purse of charity to neighbours all around,
The honest and deserving, who destitute are found,
That I may have returned twice, and blessings right sincere,
When I am underdone the snow, and you return next year.

I had five brothers goodly—a sister kind, as well,
We always met together, just as the season fell;
We made our parents happy upon the Holy Tide,
And trimmed their chairs with ivy leaves and mistletoe beside.
I am the only one of all—the last left in the year,
Yet Christmas always comforts me—I seldom shed a tear.
Their Christmas is a better one, with angels in the skies,
In my bright bubbling wine I trace their watchful loving eyes.

In my bright youth I travelled, and I traversed o'er the sea,
The billow and the avalanche, were cheerful things to me;
The firm array of battles—the conflict rude and wild—
Were just like playthings in my path, for I was but a child:
A charmed word like magic changed, my strong desire to roam;
A letter from my mother, and the darling ones at home.
It was dated from a festival; this was the mournful strain:
"From England—upon Christmas Day!" I soon returned again.

Let us assemble all our friends, the greatest and the least,
And bring to us good merriment—a gathering and a feast.
We'll hold fast hands together, and we'll send the goblet round,
For all the cream of earthly joys at Christmas time is found!
And we will trip it cheerfully before the ancient fire,
Which, just like us, gives out the flame, before it doth expire.
I feel as youthful as a boy, my silly head turns round,
God bless you! Father Christmas! and may your joys abound.

F. P. P.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

PARISIANA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Wednesday.

Since the Restoration, all Parisian fashions have taken an English tincture. Now, however, we seem to have gone still further north to seek for novelties of outward form. The Champs Elysees, this week, have presented a curious spectacle, and the beholders were irresistibly tempted to fancy themselves in the environs of St. Petersburg or of Moscow. A smooth, unbroken surface of snow was covered by a multitude of sledges; and, to complete the resemblance, both the coachmen and their masters were enveloped in immense mantles of fur, in true Russian fashion. Amongst the number of fashionables, we distinguished Prince Obreskoff, who, with several others of the most gallant of his countrymen at present visitors to our capital, must have fancied themselves again on the banks of the Neva. Most unluckily, the thaw has suddenly put a stop to all this agreeable excitement, and the Parisians are again condemned to the common-place of their ordinary equipages. This fashion, however, though enjoyed with all the zest of novelty, dates from before the Revolution; and the sledge that are seen to-day in Paris can bear but little comparison with the splendour of those in which the aristocratic élite of that period—Count of Artois, the Duke de Chartres, the Marquis de Condé, and the Duke de Launay—promenaded through Paris. Queen Marie Antoinette herself delighted in this amusement; often might she be seen in the avenues of Versailles, conducting herself her sledge, which was, as may be imagined, of peculiar elegance in form and decoration. Alas! it has undergone strange vicissitudes; the body of the sledge of Marie Antoinette is the identical carriage in which, in Auber's opera of "The Philinte," at the Grand Opera, Levasseur, as Doctor Dulcamara, arrives on the stage, and from which he dispenses his quack medicines to the villagers. What a falling off was there!

The Paris police, so admirably organised for the tracing and detection of crime or the punishment of political offenders, offers but little immediate protection to individuals. The streets are often the scenes of midnight robberies, or even murders; the cry of "Au Voleur!" creates far less attention than "Vive la République!" and men, whom business or pleasure calls into the more unfrequented parts of the town, no longer find the protection of a guard-stick and a fleet pair of legs sufficient. The number of persons attacked, many murdered, some thrown into the canal or the river when despatched, and never again heard of—all these circumstances have spread general alarm in Paris. The circumstance of their attempting to murder a young *dilettante*, M. Le Hon, at the very moment he had parted with his carriage, at the door of an hotel filled by the votaries of pleasure, has brought these fears to their climax.

A somewhat ludicrous adventure happened to a young *beau* the other night. On leaving a house situated in one of the most retired faubourgs, he perceived at a short distance a man, who followed him from one street to another, most pertinaciously dogging his footsteps. The young man, considerably annoyed, and feeling no doubt that this suspicious individual only waited a favourable opportunity to attack him, at last turned round upon him, in an angry tone demanding his business. His anger was soon however changed into amusement. The other, in a trembling tone, exclaimed, "A thousand pardons, Sir, I am so afraid of being attacked, and I thought you would defend me!"

The diplomatic réceptions continue to be the only parties given at this moment. Two brilliant routs at the Austrian Embassy, and the charming balls given by the Countess de Luxbourg, have alone enlivened the season. The Embassy of Bavaria, and our minister, M. Guizot, are disputing for the privilege of Wednesday, as a day of reception. One of the brightest stars of our fashionable world is the beautiful Lady D—, the granddaughter of Sheridan. Each winter some foreign land has yielded up a reigning star to preside over Parisian society—I need only mention Lady H. D'Orsay, the Marquise Pallavicini, the Princess Galitzin. The sceptre has now returned to one of your fair countrywomen. The English Ambassador, Lady Cowley, had planned numerous fêtes for this winter; amongst others, a splendid fancy ball, and even British dramatic réceptions. Magnificent dresses had been ordered, professors of English secured to understand the theatricals. All these projects of pleasure are, however, overthrown by the tidings of the death of Lady Anne Culling Smith, sister of Lady Cowley.

The enthusiasm excited here by the English actors has reached its climax. No part of the performance is passed unnoticed; even the costume of Miss Faucit as *Desdemona*, has not only escaped the usual artillery of *raillerie* bestowed by the *Parisien* on their fair foreign neighbours, but is pronounced a model of taste, splendour and historical accuracy. The white satin dress embroidered in gold, with square bodice, and Venetian sleeves—even to the pink and silver scarf surrounding the waist, are made the subjects of the highest encomium.

A sedentary, illustrating the mercantile and money-loving spirit of the times, which reached even the domains of art, has lately occurred. You have heard of M. Jasi, the celebrated Florentine engraver. This gentleman a short time since finished a splendid engraving from Raphael's portrait of Leo X. This *chef-d'œuvre* had engaged the artist's whole attention for several years, and was an object of the deepest interest to him. On the strength of its merits he had been named member of the Legion of Honour, and corresponding member of the institute. There was but one opinion amongst all the connoisseurs, assembled to pronounce upon it, as to the excellence of the performance: it was instantly adjudged by them as one of the highest efforts of the art. M. Jasi had been for some time in correspondence with a well-known print-seller of Liege, who desired to purchase the greater number of the proofs of this beautiful production, and held out to the artist a prospect of most advantageous terms. The publisher, however, on arriving at Paris in order to conclude the negotiation advantageously, was desirous of cheapening as much as possible the terms on which he was to purchase; he therefore began on his first interview with M. Jasi, to depreciate greatly the value of his performance; according to him, the work had been totally spoiled in drawing the proofs. M. Jasi made no answer to these unfeeling remarks, and the publisher retired, rejoicing in the prospect of a good bargain. M. Jasi remained shut up in his own

room the whole day, and the next morning he was found by his friends in a state of complete mental alienation; he had even during the night attempted suicide, by dashing his head against a marble table. The unfortunate artist is now in a *maison de santé*; but hopes are entertained that if they succeed in making him comprehend the object of the Liege's enigma, he may recover his faculties; he may then indeed exclaim with his countryman, Metastasio:—"O, mente Umana, Cleca e superba!"

FRANCE.

OPENING OF THE FRENCH CHAMBERS.

The King of the French opened the Session of the two Chambers on Thursday. At one o'clock his Majesty left the Tuilleries, and, upon arriving at the Chamber of Deputies, ascended the throne, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses the Duc de Nemours, Prince de Joinville, Duc d'Aumale, and Duc de Montpensier. The Queen and Princesses occupied the usual places. His Majesty having taken his seat, delivered the following speech:—

"Messieurs the Peers and Deputies,
"At the close of last session, complications, which might have become grave, were the objects of my solicitude. The necessity of securing our possessions in Africa against hostile and repeated incursions obliged us to carry war into the empire of Morocco. Our brave armies of land and sea, worthily commanded, attained with glory, and in a short time, the object marked out to their valour. Peace promptly followed victory, and Algiers, where three of my sons had this year the honour to serve their country, has recorded a double pledge of security, for we have proved at once our power and our moderation.

"My Government was engaged with that of the Queen of Great Britain in discussions which might have given reason to fear that the relations of the two States might have been affected; a spirit of goodwill and equity has maintained between France and England this happy accord, which guarantees the peace of the world.

"During the visit which I paid the Queen of Great Britain to testify to her the price that I attach to the amity which unites us, and to that reciprocal friendship of which she has given me so many marks, I have been surrounded by manifestations the most satisfactory for France and for myself. I have gathered, in the sentiments that have been expressed to me, additional guarantees for the long duration of that generous peace, which assures to our country abroad a dignified and strong position, and at home an eternally increasing prosperity, with the enjoyment of her constitutional liberties.

"My relations with all foreign powers continue to be friendly and amicable.
"You are, Messieurs, yourselves witnesses of the prosperous state of France. You see manifested upon all parts of our territory our national activity, protected by wise laws, and reaping in the bosom of order the fruits of its labours. The rise of public credit, and the equilibrium established between our annual receipts and expenditure, attest the happy influence of this situation upon the general affairs of the State for the well-being of all.

"Financial laws will be immediately presented to you. Projects of laws for the amelioration of our roads, of our ports, and of our internal navigation, for the completion of our railways, and for different objects of general utility, will be equally submitted to your deliberation.

"In the midst of the general prosperity of the country, Heaven has blessed my family. It has increased the number of my children; and the marriage of one of my well-beloved sons, the Duc d'Aumale, with a Princess, who already was related to us by so many ties, has been for me and mine a lively satisfaction.

"Messieurs, Providence has imposed upon me many labours, and painful trials. I have accepted the burden. I have devoted myself—I have devoted my family to the service of my country. To lay a lasting foundation of union and happiness has for fourteen years been the object of our constant efforts. I feel confident that with your loyal aid you will enable me to attain it, and that the gratitude of France, free and happy, will be the reward of our common devotedness, and be, too, the honour of my reign."

Cries of "Vive le Roi!" interrupted some of the foregoing speech, and were renewed at the close. A heavy fog enveloped Paris all the morning.

The French Opposition press, ever ready to catch at straws, and to magnify events trifling in themselves into circumstances of importance, have seized with avidity upon a circumstance, which, we admit, is likely to cause some embarrassment to the Ministry; we allude to the expected return of Admiral Dupetit Thouars from Tahiti to France. The Admiral is expected at Cherbourg, where the restless spirits connected with republicanism and anarchy propose to receive him with great honours, as a reward for his supposed enmity towards the English. It is said that the National Guards are to be drawn up on his landing, and that they intend to present him with a wreath of laurels, by way of preparation for the sword of honour with which he was invested. We believe that the French Government, with the same prudence as it evinced on a former occasion, will not permit this incentive to anarchy. According to the regulations of the French service, no officer can accept of any decoration or other mark of distinction, unless he chooses to give up his commission.

The banquets given to Sir Henry Pottinger have excited considerable attention among the journalists of Paris. His explanations respecting the treaty with China have completely falsified the insinuations which they some time since made respecting a supposed surreptitious introduction made in that treaty, and some of the journals are exceedingly displeased at the upright and truly statesmanlike tone assumed by our Representative, and they affect to think that the letters expected from M. Lagrenée the French Minister, will give a different account of the feelings of the Chinese towards the English.

SPAIN.

We learn from Madrid that the Committee of the Senate appointed to report on the Reform Bill had communicated to both Chambers the result of its labour, and recommended its adoption.

The letters of the 18th inst. from Madrid say the Chamber of Deputies commenced on that day the discussion on the bill to authorise the conversion of the debt proceeding from contracts into Three per Cent. Stock.

Some sensation had been excited at Madrid by the resignation of M. Donoso Cortes, the Queen's Secretary. There were various reports upon the subject, but the general opinion was that it arose out of a praise-worthy determination to compel Narvaez to exercise clemency in the case of Colonel Rengifo and his co-accused. It appears that Narvaez was fully determined to have the unfortunate man executed forthwith, when M. Donoso Cortes remonstrated strongly, and pointed out the immense injury the execution of a sentence, declared by two superior courts to be illegal, would have throughout Europe. Narvaez replied in such insulting terms, that M. Donoso Cortes thought it becoming to tender his resignation immediately, which he did accordingly. This unexpected proceeding alarmed Narvaez, and he gave way. Colonel Rengifo's punishment was commuted to banishment for life, and all possible means are now being used to induce M. Donoso Cortes to withdraw his resignation.

Accounts from Vittoria mention the death of General Jauregui (El Pastor) in that town. El Pastor rendered essential service to the national cause during the war of independence.

PORTUGAL.

Our letters from Lisbon of the 17th inst. contain an account of the ceremonies which took place upon the closing of the Cortes. The Queen was present and dismissed the assembly with a brief speech in these terms:—

"Illustrious Peers of the realm, and Deputies of the Portuguese nation,
"It is with unfeigned pleasure that I this day behold myself surrounded by the representatives of the nation. I congratulate you, conjointly with myself, on the fruitful result of your parliamentary labours. The measures resorted to by the legislative body, for the purpose of establishing upon a solid basis the public tranquillity, which has been unfortunately interrupted in various parts of the kingdom, have produced the desired effect; and those which have since been approved, of present the well founded hope that the throne and constitutional institutions will not be offended anew. The plans which have been adopted by you for the improvement of the public revenue finances will most powerfully tend to the attainment of that so generally desired object, viz., the complete organisation of this important point. Public confidence, so generally manifested, together with the progressive augmentation of the general credit, furnish an undoubted testimony to the importance and utility of those measures. The affairs which have been submitted to your deliberation have been of the most weighty nature, and it behoves me to say that the views taken of the same, and resolutions adopted by you, have proved you to be worthy of the nation's confidence as well as of my most especial benevolence. The session is closed."

There was no political news of interest. There had been some very tempestuous weather on the coast for several days previously. On Saturday the 14th inst., during a heavy gale from south-west, the Portuguese brig *Liberal*, from Rio Janeiro, on attempting to enter the port of Lisbon, was driven on the bar, where she soon went to pieces. The master and seven seamen were drowned; the mate and three others were saved. In the course of the same day a Spanish schooner went on shore nearly at the same place. All the crew escaped, but four passengers perished.

Mr. Tezer, the British subject who was arrested in April last at Coimbra, on charges of a political nature, was tried at Oporto on the 11th inst., and acquitted.

GERMANY.

The *Journal des Débats* states that the interment of the mortal remains of the illustrious Carl Maria von Weber took place at Dresden, on the 14th inst. The coffin, covered with black velvet, embroidered with crowns of silver and green silk, arrived at Dresden from Magdeburgh by the railroad. At eight o'clock in the evening it was transported in a boat to the right bank of the Elbe, where 500 infantry of the Royal Guard, with torches in their hands, were waiting to receive it. In the interior of a circle formed by the troops were placed the members of the King's musical band, those of the two theatres, and several other amateurs, by whom the coffin was removed from the boat. A funeral hymn, composed by Wagner, a pupil of Meyerbeer, was then chanted by 450 singers, with the necessary instrumental accompaniment. The coffin was then carried to the Catholic chapel of the principal cemetery of Dresden, and, after a funeral service was celebrated in that temple, the remains of Weber were interred beside those of his son, who died about five years since. All the houses in the streets through which the funeral procession passed were illuminated with wax candles, placed in the windows. An immense crowd followed.

SWITZERLAND.

The news from Switzerland is that the Government of Lucerne, on hearing of the resolutions adopted by the popular assemblies held at Fraubrunnen and Zofingue had ordered the military commission to call out the landwehr. On the other hand, the canton of Schwyz marched troops to the frontiers of Lucerne on the 16th.

The Swiss correspondent of the *Constitutionnel* writes, on the 19th, that the events of Lucerne were the mere prelude of a crisis which might yet put in peril the present constitution of Switzerland.

TURKEY.

Accounts from Constantinople to the 4th instant state that Sir Stratford Canning has returned, from his excursion to the Dardanelles, to his country house at Bujukdere.

It was said that Abdallah, late Pacha of Trebisond, alarmed by the order of the Porte to justify himself, had offered a large pecuniary indemnification to the ill-used Greek. The Pacha is said to be also threatened with an address of the chief Turks of Trebisond to the Porte, representing the tyranny which makes him hated by all classes, and earnestly desires that he may be removed. Dr. J. Wolff writes from Teheran that he is chiefly indebted to the support of the Persian Ambassador for his deliverance from the claws of the rapacious and murderous Bocharis; it was under his protection that he succeeded in returning safe to Teheran.

Several Turkish passengers were frozen to death in the last steam boat for Trebisond. The thermometer was at zero (Reaumur) and the roofs were covered with snow.

The apprehensions of a breach between Sir S. Canning and the Turkish Ministry are happily not confirmed. Sir Stratford acts with great moderation, and seems to be quite confident that all his demands will be granted. In his late excursion he visited the coast of Troy.

WEST INDIES.

The Thames has arrived at Southampton with the West India mails. She left Jamaica on the 23rd of November, Carthage on the 18th, Demerara the 18th, Trinidad the 20th, Barbadoes the 25th, Grenada the 26th, St. Thomas Dec. 1, and Faya the 14th.

The papers state that the whole of the West India Islands were generally in a very healthy condition. The Governors of the Trinidad and the Windward Islands were about to proceed to Jamaica, to consult with Lord Elgin on the expediency of forming a final settlement for the West India colonies. There is every prospect of good crops throughout the islands generally. The weather has not been so propitious for many years.

The House of Assembly was sitting at Jamaica, but no business of importance has been under consideration.

SOUTH AMERICA.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM PERU.—Accounts have arrived from Arica, stating that an outrage had been committed on the British Consul there by the authorities of the town. The outrage is mentioned as being of the grossest description. The British squadron engaged in the blockade of Ilay had information of the outrage communicated by Mr. Wilson, the insulted consul, and her Majesty's ship *Talbot* was immediately despatched to Arica. It is said that water was refused this vessel. Our Peruvian Minister, Mr. Adams, happened to be on board the *Talbot*, and considered the circumstances of the case so flagrant as to demand an immediate apology, which was required in the name of the British Government by the commander of the *Talbot*. The apology being refused, the *Talbot* opened fire on the governor's residence; several shells were thrown in, and this was represented as being only a beginning, and that the town would be bombarded. This prompt mode of dealing brought the authorities to better behaviour—an ample apology was given, and tranquillity at once restored.

VALPARAISO, Aug. 5.—You will, perhaps, have heard of a schooner, the O. C. Raymond, having left China with a large amount of silver on board; she was supposed to have been lost, but she arrived here in September last, and the captain consigned himself to a most respectable firm in this place, stating that he had been, for two years past, trading amongst the islands in the Indian seas, and on the coast of China; that he originally sailed from the Sag harbour, with an assorted cargo, valued at 31,000 dollars; and that the vessel and cargo were the joint concern of himself, the mate, and parties in the United States. He brought a quantity of sycee silver, which he caused to be melted into bars, that produced him in gold ounces 49,000 dollars. He then transferred his vessel before the American Consul to the mate, and left this place for the coast. Since his departure, we have heard that he had received the specie on board as freight from one port of China to another. The last heard of the captain was, that he had, with two bags of gold ounces, taken his passage from Chagres in a vessel for New York. The mate also left this place in a vessel bound for New York. It is, therefore, probable that both the captain and mate may be secured.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

REFUSAL OF PROTECTION TO AN INSOLVENT UNDER THE NEW ACT.—In the Court of Bankruptcy, on Monday, the case of J. Mynde Cooke was decided upon. The particulars of it have been mentioned several times. The insolvent is an attorney, and was stated to have been deeply engaged in gambling transactions with persons well known in the play world. He now came up in custody from the Queen's Prison, his further examination having been adjourned, upon application for his final order.—After a good deal of argument, and the hearing of some evidence, the learned Commissioner said that this application was made to the Court under the 28th section of the act, which prayed that the insolvent might obtain his protection. The opposition to the insolvent he considered to be perfectly legitimate, although no trade creditors, as such, were now said to oppose him. There were three charges made against the insolvent—first, his obtaining money from Mr. Flight upon bills, by means of false representations; second, his retaining £1200 out of £3800 in an improper manner; and third, his reckless expenditure. Now, as to the discount of the bills by Mr. Flight, he (the learned commissioner) believed the statement of Eicke and of Cox, who both said that the money was to be raised for Stratford, who had considerable expectations, and was then about to marry the daughter of a baronet, with a considerable fortune. Besides, the insolvent was all that time acting in the character of Stratford's solicitor, and no doubt it was only from the expectation of large gains that Flight discounted the bills. The transactions with Page were certainly left in doubt, for Evans, the wine-merchant, had not been called; but yet, taking the whole of the evidence upon that point, it was most decidedly against the insolvent. As to the transactions between him and his broker, they appeared to be a complete jugglery; and, under all the circumstances of this case, which was full of fraud and culpable neglect, he (the learned commissioner) had no hesitation in saying that the Insolvent Act was not intended to protect such persons as the insolvent, but only honest debtors, who by misfortune were unable to pay their debts. The application is discharged altogether.—Mr. Cooke: By the act, the insolvent must be protected after twelve months.—His Honour: I have nothing to do with that, it must go before another tribunal.—The insolvent was removed in custody.

ADVERSE DECISIONS AGAINST INSOLVENTS.—In the Court of Bankruptcy on Tuesday, the Rev. Dr. Kenny, Rector of St. Saviour's, Southwark, appeared before Mr. Commissioner Evans for his final order. His debts and liabilities amounted to about £12,000, and the insolvent had offered to set aside £250 out of his income of £650 per annum for the benefit of his creditors. Mr. Sturgeon opposed the granting of the final order on behalf of several creditors, upon the ground that the insolvent had contracted debts without any reasonable prospect of being able to pay them. Mr. Commissioner Evans: From the beginning I could see that there was no reasonable ground for his coming here, and I shall dismiss his petition. A solicitor, who appeared for the insolvent, said that he thought the terms offered would be advantageous to the creditors, and he expected they would have accepted them. Mr. Commissioner Evans: I can listen to no such proposition. I am sworn to do justice, and my decided opinion is, that the insolvent had not the slightest means of meeting the bills which he accepted, or paying the debts which he has contracted.—A decision was also given in the same Court in the case of Lewis Jackson Randall, which shows, that in spite of the obloquy heaped on those who desire to extend a little mercy towards honest debtors, there are ample means of punishing dishonest ones. The insolvent, a furniture broker, in Bethnal-green, was opposed by Mr. Cooke for a creditor named Riches, and supported by Mr. Woodruffe. The complaint was a breach of trust. The parties had been connected in business together, the creditor advancing money and receiving his capital on the sale of furniture, as also one-third of the profits. In July, 1843, the insolvent claimed the furniture as his own, and Mr. Riches brought an action for £100, but only recovered £50. The law costs amounted to £93. The insolvent contradicted the opposing creditor. The furniture was his own. He vouched his books to corroborate his statement. Some books were now exhibited, and the opposing creditor pointed out a number of items which had been falsified. The Chief Commissioner, after remarking on the conduct of the insolvent, remanded him for fourteen calendar months for falsifying and concealing his books.

POLICE.

CHARGE OF HOUSEBREAKING.—At Union Hall on Monday, Joseph Astleford, a man dressed as a mechanic, was charged with breaking into the dwelling-house of Mr. Court, at Meeting-house-lane, Peckham, and stealing three suits of clothes and other apparel.—A brother of the prosecutor stated that at eight on Saturday morning he left the property safe in the bedroom of a small house attached to his father's residence in Meeting-house-lane, where he and his brother slept. The front door was left on the latch and could be opened with a common latch key. At the rear of the premises, which had connection with his father's house, a large dog was kept, which would not only make a noise but attack a stranger. At eight in the evening he entered by the back door, and proceeded into the bedroom, when he found that the drawers had been broken open and robbed of their contents. He also found the front door ajar, and he had every reason to think that the entrance was effected by that door, as it was seldom opened by any one.—Constable 47 M stated that about ten minutes past eight o'clock he was on duty in the Kent-road, when he saw the prisoner with a bundle under each arm. He asked where he got them? He replied he was employed to carry them by a man he never saw before. He afterwards contradicted himself by saying he had found them. After he had said so he dropped the bundles and ran away, but he pursued and took him into custody.—The prosecutor identified the whole of the property. The drawers and desk had been forced with some brass compasses and a pair of snuffers, which were lying about and broken to pieces.—In answer to the charge, the prisoner said he picked up the bundles. As for the robbery, he was quite innocent of it, and did not even know where the house was situated. He wished to be remanded, as some clue might be obtained of the real offenders. To this the magistrate assented.

A WHOLESALE STEALER OF BOOKS.—At Bow-street on Monday, Ebenezer Pardon Kingston, a young man employed as a prosecutor to the Professor of Physiology in King's College, Somerset House, was brought up for re-examination before Mr. Justice, charged with stealing a coat, a pocket book, a cigar-case, several letters, an ink-stand, and a key, value £4 and upwards, the property of Mr. John Farmer, a medical student.—Several coffee-shop keepers, who had known the prisoner for a considerable time, were in attendance to identify a number of books that had been stolen from their premises, and which were found by the officer, with other property, on searching the prisoner's lodgings.—Constable West, F division, said that on Saturday last, while searching the pri-

soner's lodgings, 25, Harwood-street, Hampstead-road, he found in a front room, occupied by the prisoner, three diagrams produced, which were used in anatomical lectures, "Jones's Animal Kingdom," "Owen's Odontography," a pocket compass, a small vice, a spirit measure, and part of a dog's skull.—John Forrest, curator at the museum, King's College, identified the diagrams as belonging to the corporation of the College. The "Animal Kingdom" was stolen from the library, and the other book, which belonged to Professor Thomas-Rymer Jones, was taken from a drawer. The compass and measure were also stolen from the College. The vice was the property of witness.—The proprietor of the Star coffee-house, in Long-acre, said that ten books which were found in the lodgings of the prisoner had been stolen from his rooms, which the prisoner was in the habit of frequenting.—The prisoner was remanded.

A MAN CHARGED WITH FORGERY UPON HIS BROTHER.—At Clerkenwell Police-court, on Tuesday, Mr. James Carr was charged with a forgery upon his brother. It appeared from the evidence that about fourteen years ago the prosecutor, James William Carr, the prisoner's brother, was transported for seven years. He was entitled to the reversionary interest of freehold property in houses and lands in Sharp's-alley, Cow-cross, worth £500. The property had been forfeited to the Crown, he, upon his return to this country, about four months ago, negotiated with a Mr. Venables for the sale of his reversionary interest in it. The negotiation was near its conclusion, when it was discovered that the prisoner had made a deed of assignment, conveying the property to a man named Price, who had been since transported, and the very day after the above instrument was executed was a party to a mortgage deed, in which Price was the mortgagor, and a flannel-merchant, named Williams, residing in Llanidulley, in Wales, the mortgagee. The consideration in the deed of assignment, which was dated 12th August, 1842, was £250. In another, which was dated the 13th of the same month and year, £220.—The prosecutor deposed that his name signed to both instruments was in the prisoner's handwriting, and that he had never authorised the prisoner to execute them. The reversionary interest in the property was his and his only.—Mr. Combe asked if Mr. Williams had paid over the £220.—Mr. Kearns, an attorney, residing in Red-lion-square, in whose office both deeds were executed, said that Mr. Williams had, through his agent, paid over about £50 of the mortgage money.—Police-constable 40 M said the prisoner had, when apprehended, confessed his guilt.—Prisoner: I put my brother's name to it, but I never received a farthing. Price received about £50. I thought the prosecutor was dead.—Mr. Combe: That would not make the forgery of his name the less culpable.—Mr. Combe decided upon committing the prisoner for trial to the Old Bailey, but, as some further evidence was necessary, he remanded the prisoner.

EXTRAORDINARY RESISTANCE BY A COINER AND HIS CHILD.—On Tuesday, at Worship-street Police-office, James Green, a well-dressed middle-aged man, of most determined aspect, and Anne Green, his daughter, a little girl eleven years of age, were charged with having been found engaged in the manufacture of a large quantity of spurious money; and also with having committed a murderous assault upon two of the officers of the G division of police.—It appeared from the evidence of Sergeant Brannan, who was in such a state of suffering as to be scarcely capable of giving his evidence, that having received information the prisoner was closely connected with an extensive gang of coiners who had recently put into circulation a large amount of spurious money, he proceeded, between nine and ten o'clock on the previous evening, accompanied by Cole, a constable on the same division, to the house of the prisoner in Bath-court, City-road. On knocking, the door was opened by the younger prisoner, who, the instant she saw the officers, called loudly to her father; on which the male prisoner suddenly made his appearance at the top of a flight of stairs communicating with a room into which the street-door opened. Witness rushed up the stairs in the hope of seeing the man, and had reached within three steps of the landing, when the prisoner exclaimed, "You've not got me yet, Brannan, you thief," and, springing at him, struck him such a violent blow in the chest with his feet, that he was instantly hurled from the top of the stairs to the room below, where his spine came in contact with the edge of a chair, and the prisoner, who was unable to check his own impetus, fell with his whole weight upon the officer. Cole then seized the prisoner, and a severe struggle ensued between them, in the course of which, the witness, who had partially recovered from the shock of his fall, saw the younger prisoner in the act of concealing something in her bosom; this he forced from her, and found to be a parcel containing twenty-two counterfeit half-crowns, finished for circulation. The girl, a determined little vixen, then broke from his grasp, and hastened up stairs, followed by the witness, who found her engaged in picking up a great number of base coins which were strewn about the table. While the witness was securing this spurious money the male prisoner, followed by Cole, burst into the room, and, seizing a large glass bottle filled with vitriol, dashed it at the officers, and a large quantity of the burning liquid was in consequence flung over their heads, faces, and the upper parts of their persons. While the officers were in this condition, the male prisoner pulled from under his apron a bag filled with counterfeit coin and handed it to the girl, desiring her to get rid of it: but the witness Brannan succeeded in getting it from her and securing the other false coin on the table, the whole together amounting to more than a hundred shillings and half-crown pieces. The witness and Cole then searched the room, which was fitted up like a regular workshop, with work-bench and every description of tools, among which were two very curiously-manufactured implements, consisting each of a bright double metal plate, 6 inches by 3, and furnished with screws and nuts, for the purpose of securing the coin tightly during the application to it of plating liquids and acids, several bottles of which were also found in the apartment. The prisoner, it appeared, never cast the coins himself, but received them in a roughly-manufactured state from other members of the gang, by whom he was employed in finishing and completing them for circulation. Brannan said, that the injuries he had received in his struggle with the prisoner were of such a nature that he was apprehensive he should feel the effects of them as long as he lived. Cole, the other officer, whose hands and wrists appeared severely scorched and swollen, corroborated the sergeant's evidence, and stated, that while he was engaged in the struggle with the prisoner, the latter set a bull-dog upon him, which bit and clung to him with such pertinacity that he had the greatest difficulty in beating it off. Both the officers described the resistance offered by the male prisoner as being the most desperate they ever encountered, and said that he was most actively aided in it by his daughter, who exhibited a degree of violence scarcely credible for a child of such tender years.—The male prisoner, in defence, declared that the whole of the articles found by the police had been left at his house only an hour previously by a man who had promised to call for them in a short time afterwards, and that he was wholly innocent of any guilty use of them.—Sergeant Brannan intimated to the magistrate that he was satisfied the prisoner had been carrying on this system of fraud for a long time past, and that about a year ago the prisoner's youngest child, a little girl about two years old, had lost its life in consequence of drinking some of the burning liquids used by the prisoner in the process of manufacturing the base coin, the prisoner at the coroner's inquest accounting for the little creature's death by a statement precisely similar to that he now made.—Mr. Bingham expressed great regret at the injuries the officers had sustained, and ordered both prisoners to be remanded for a week, that the Solicitor to the Mint might attend and prosecute the case against them.

COMMITTAL OF A POSTMASTER FOR EMBEZZLEMENT.—On Tuesday, at Bow-street, Robert Hobson, the Post-office keeper of Walthamstow, who had been before examined on a charge of embezzling 1s. 10d., the postage of a letter addressed to Calcutta, was again placed at the bar to answer further charges of detaining newspapers.—Mr. Peacock attended for the prosecution, and Mr. J. C. Evans, a barrister, conducted the defence. Peake, a constable, having produced several numbers of the *Times*, of recent dates, which he had found with other newspapers in the prisoner's house when searching it, under the direction of Mr. W. R. Sculthorpe, on Tuesday week.—Mr. R. Lloyd Pinching, a surgeon, residing in Walthamstow, identified five copies of the *Times*, dated October 29, November 4, November 5, December 3, and December 12, the direction on each of which was in his own handwriting. They were addressed to his sister, to Dr. Ross, and other parties resident in Ireland, to whom he was in the habit of sending his papers. Some of them had been posted by himself, but a lad in his service generally took them to the post-office, at the prisoner's shop. To the best of his (witness's) belief, the papers produced were directed and sent at different periods.—William East, a servant to Mr. Pinching, deposed to having posted the *Times* newspaper, by his master's directions, at the prisoner's shop. He had generally put them in the letter-box, but had, on some occasions, a few months back, taken them into the shop when they had been too bulky to go through the aperture outside. They were always at those times delivered to the prisoner or one of his sons or daughters.—The constable said, that when the prisoner was requested to account for the possession of the papers, he replied, that he had lately purchased a quantity of waste paper, and supposed they must have come with it.—Another case of a similar nature was proved by the evidence of a young woman named Eliza Antony, a servant at Walthamstow, who identified a paper which she had directed to a sister in Monmouthshire, and the envelope of which was found in the prisoner's bed-room.—Mr. Jardine, after hearing the prisoner's counsel, determined on committing him for trial, both for the embezzlement and the mis-demeanour.—Mr. J. C. Evans hoped that bail would be taken, in consideration of the respectability of the prisoner, whose wife and large family were dependent on his exertions in business.—The Rev. J. Freeman, of Walthamstow, with other parties of equal respectability, would, he said, be his sureties to any reasonable extent.—Mr. Jardine said he could not make any distinction in the case, and must therefore refuse the application so far as it related to the embezzlement.—The prisoner was then removed from the bar.—[We think the magistrate exercised a sound discretion in not allowing the respectability of the prisoner to have any weight in inducing him to take bail. The sooner the distinctions made in regard to offenders are done away with the better. While they continue, people will not believe that rich and poor are governed by the same law.]

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

THE COLLISION BETWEEN THE SYLPH AND ORWELL STEAMERS.

The inquiry into the circumstances attending the late fatal collision between the Orwell and Sylph steam-boats was resumed on Monday, before Mr. Carttar, at the Eight Bells, Greenwich. The first witness called was

Dr. Mitchell, of Greenwich, who proved, from a *post mortem* examination, that Sullivan died from suffocation in the water, and Sheppard from the severe injuries he had sustained about the head and body.

Commander Henry Smith, of her Majesty's steam-frigate *Rattler*, said:—I

was a passenger on board the Sylph, on the afternoon of Tuesday week, and was standing about the engine-room when that vessel left the Greenwich pier on her way towards Blackwall. The weather was so thick at that time that I was induced to remain on deck. There was a man in the bows looking out forward. After proceeding a short distance, I heard the noise of a steamer approaching us. I looked out forward, but saw nothing. Immediately afterwards the man on the look out said something to the captain, when he called out, "Stop her, go astern." I then saw a large steamer bearing down upon us, at about twenty-five yards distance. At that time a collision was inevitable, and when the captain saw the large vessel so close to him, he folded his arms and said, "By G—d, it is all over with us!" I could not see the shore on either side at that time. When the collision took place, the motion of the Sylph was quite stopped, and if a boat had been under her bows we should not have injured her. I am of opinion that the speed was on the Orwell when the collision occurred. She must have been going at a good speed, because she cut quite through the deck of the Sylph; and, from the position in which the latter was, it was impossible that she could have contributed much force to the collision. I am decidedly of opinion that the Sylph was motionless when the collision took place. Had the Orwell put her helm a-starboard as the Sylph did, no accident would have occurred. I think the Sylph was going down the river much quicker than a prudent captain would have brought her, considering the fog which prevailed; and I am of the same opinion as to the speed at which the Orwell was coming up. In such a state of the weather there should be some regulation to prevent vessels from proceeding at more than half speed. My impression was, that we were travelling much quicker than we ought to have been, and I kept on deck in consequence, fearing the possibility of an accident. After the collision I remained on the quarter-deck of the Sylph until all the deck passengers were got off, when I went on board the Orwell. I then called out to the man in charge to back astern, and get the two vessels clear, as I saw that the people were prevented from getting out of the cabin of the Sylph while the vessels hung together.

By Mr. Wilkinson: The engines of the Sylph were eased before I saw the Orwell. It was the fact of her being eased that attracted my attention, and I then looked out forward and saw the Orwell's bows close upon us. I judge of the speed of the Orwell by the nature of the injuries inflicted on the Sylph. I think she must have been going eight miles an hour at least.

Mr. George Edwards, of Sutton, Suffolk, said: I am a mariner, and was on board the Orwell when the accident occurred. I was standing near the paddle-box on the starboard side, when I saw a steam-boat ahead about one hundred yards. This vessel appeared to be across the river, with her bow a little down-wards. I heard Captain Wrackham give the order to stop her, and back her astern. The collision took place directly after. I do not know what speed either vessel had upon her when the accident occurred, but the Sylph, when I first saw her, seemed to have headway. Captain Wrackham was forward at the time.

Robert Fuller, mariner of Ipswich, said: I am a seaman on board the Orwell, and was upon the look-out in the larboard bow on the afternoon of Thursday week. I first saw the Sylph when she was within fifty yards of the Orwell. I called out, "Stop her—go astern;" but in less than a minute she struck us. I think when I first saw her she was going at full speed. The paddles were going a-head just before she struck. The Orwell had very little speed on her, and as soon as those on the look-out called out, the master in charge (Wiggins) stopped the engines. He called out, "Stop her—go astern." The Orwell had been eased previously, and was going "quite easily" at the time. She had been eased all the way from Woolwich, and had come that distance about five or six miles an hour. We were about twenty yards from the north shore, and could see the edge of the bank very plainly. I do not think it was possible to have avoided the collision, owing to the speed at which the Sylph was proceeding.

William Pullifer, another of the crew of the Orwell, gave similar evidence. William Linney, of Ipswich, another seaman on board the Orwell, said: I think that if the Sylph's helm had been ported instead of being put a starboard, the collision might have been avoided. Very few seconds elapsed between our first seeing her and the collision taking place.

Henry Rogers (the call-boy on board the Orwell) proved having given the engineer orders to go "Quite easy," after leaving Blackwall, and to "Stop," just before the collision took place.

Joseph Sutcliffe, the engineer in charge, deposed that on the passage up from Blackwall the engine had made about seven revolutions per minute, her full speed being from twenty-eight to thirty. He was standing by, as usual in foggy weather, between the engines when he heard the order given to "Stop her," and "Go astern." He did so, and after the engines had made two revolutions astern the collision took place, and he then shut the steam off and came on deck. It occupied about fifteen seconds to stop the engine and make the two revolutions astern.

James Wiggins, a brother of the master in charge, and supercargo on board the Orwell, was next examined. He was at the wheel when the collision took place, and his evidence differed in no respect from that of the other parties on board the Orwell.

The Coroner commenced summing up, and the jury after an absence of half an hour, returned the following unanimous verdict:—"We consider that the deceased met his death accidentally; but we are of opinion that the captain of the Sylph was highly to blame for the speed at which he had previously been going; we believe the Orwell to have been the moving power to the death of the deceased, but consider that the parties on board that vessel used due caution, and did all they could to avoid the accident, and the jury are unanimously of opinion that Captain Sweiland should be severely reprimanded by the Coroner.

The verdict appeared to give general satisfaction, and Captain Sweiland was suitably admonished by Mr. Carttar.

An inquest on the body of the man Sheppard was then opened *pro forma*, and after the examination of a single witness, the same verdict was recorded.

ANOTHER COLLIERY EXPLOSION.—Soon after the workmen entered the Pentrefelin Colliery, the property of the Swansea Coal Company, situated near Morriston, on Monday week, they were alarmed by an explosion of foul air in one of the headings, ignited by a collier named Thomas James, who was most severely burnt. The workmen immediately proceeded from all parts of the pit to the scene of the lamentable occurrence, where they found the three lifeless bodies of John Hopkins, aged twenty, Matthew Fisher, aged twenty, both of whom were unmarried, and Thomas Morgan, a boy, ten years of age, who had been most shockingly disfigured—his head having been detached from the body by the violent concussion of air consequent on the explosion. In the course of the inquiry it was proved that the fan for ventilating the mines had not been worked either on Sunday night, Monday, or Monday night. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," with an opinion, "that had the fan been worked during Sunday night, or early on Monday morning, the explosion would not have occurred—that there is blame attached to the overman for not having seen that the pit was properly cleared, and for not having employed a person sufficiently strong to work at the fan."

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE IN ST. JAMES'S PARK.—On Monday afternoon, a young female (whose name could not be ascertained) made an attempt to commit suicide by throwing herself into the ornamental water in St. James's Park. Several persons who had observed her loitering about, directed the attention of one of the park-keepers, but before he could reach the place she plunged into the water. An alarm was instantly raised, when a crowd of persons rushed to the spot, and succeeded in rescuing her from a watery grave. She was conveyed, in an insensible state, to the nearest lodge, where she partly recovered, after considerable difficulty. She was subsequently removed to her residence in Princes-street, Queen-square, followed by a crowd of persons. She was very respectably attired, and seemed to be convulsed with grief.

LAMENTABLE AFFAIR.—On Wednesday, the 11th instant, Thomas Pritchard, a mason, in the employ of C. H. Leigh, Esq., was working upon the roof of the forge called the Glyn, at Blasenau, Herefordshire, when, by some mishap, he lost his balance, and fell through the roof, directly upon the fly-wheel, which turns round with a resistless velocity. The work of death was soon completed; he was so mangled, crushed, and torn, that an endeavour to recognise him would have been vain, had not his dress been identified. The day after the funeral his jaw bone was found. An inquest was held upon the body, and a verdict of "Accidental death" returned. The poor fellow has left behind him a wife and two children.

SUICIDE OF A LADY AT BROMPTON.—On Monday, Mr. Wakley, M.P., held an inquest at the Fulham-bridge Tavern, on the body of Mrs. Mary Bingley, about 50 years of age, the widow of a solicitor residing at No. 2, Queen's-buildings, Brompton, who committed suicide by cutting her throat on Friday morning. In the course of the evidence it appeared that the husband of the deceased lady died in August, 1843. For some time after his death she had been much disturbed in mind, and imagined that she was going to be sent to prison and that she would come to be hung, and on that account became in quite a desponding state. Within the last six months, however, she had been much better, and appeared to perfectly sane until the present occurrence. Her husband died owing considerable debts, and the property was in Chancery, but only for the purpose of the affairs being settled, and not on any disputed point, as, after settling all claims, there will be a handsome property for the family, which consists of five children; the eldest (a girl) is 17 years of age.—Verdict, "Temporary insanity."

ACCIDENT TO THE SON OF CAPTAIN ROWLEY.—A melancholy accident happened last week on board the St. Vincent, at Portsmouth, to a son of Captain R. F. Rowley, a youth about twelve years of age, who fell from the lower deck of that ship into the hold, a depth of nearly eighteen feet. The unfortunate youth was taken up almost insensible, and remains in a very precarious state.

FATAL GUN ACCIDENT.—An inquest was held on Saturday before Mr. Higgs, at Enfield-highway, on Richard Moses, aged 18, who died from the effects of a gun shot wound. The deceased was in the service of Mrs. Bergen, a market-gardener. On Tuesday week he was shooting snipes. A witness looked at his gun, which was a very good one, and returned it. A witness said here comes your mistress, and deceased hid the gun amongst some rubbish, consisting of twigs, stopping up a gap in the hedge. Mrs. Bergen did not come towards them. As soon as she was out of sight deceased took hold of the muzzle of the gun, and drew it towards him, when it went off. Witness saw smoke come from the trousers of deceased, who exclaimed he was shot. He was then taken to a surgeon's, and subsequently removed to his father's at Enfield. He went on favourably at first, but erysipelas supervened. On Wednesday lock-jaw came on, which caused his death the same night. Verdict, "Died from lock-jaw, produced by a gun shot wound accidentally received."

MELANCHOLY FIRE AT THE EARL OF HARRINGTON'S.—On Monday some alarm was caused at the mansion of the Earl of Harrington, in Whitehall Gardens, by the discovery of a fire which appears to have been smouldering for a considerable time, and had broken out in the drawing-room of his lordship on the second floor. The fire originated under the hearth of the dressing-room, passed along by the joists of the flooring, which at that time were all on fire.

An immediate attempt to extinguish the flames was made by the servants; but finding they were unable to do so, a messenger was despatched to the stations of the fire brigade, engines from which speedily arrived. A plug in the garden was drawn, but the supply of water was scanty, and buckets filled from the cisterns around the edifice were used in staying the flames; but the fire was burning in so large a body under the flooring that it was found necessary to cut away the floor quite into the ball-room beneath, a considerable portion of the ceiling of which is destroyed. In the dressing-room also much damage is done. The recess is nearly burned out; the couch is destroyed; a great number of classical figures, beautifully overlaid with gold, are broken, and a variety of articles of *verru* are spoiled, as is much of the furniture and elaborate appointments, both by fire, water, and removal. The ball-room is a beautiful specimen of modern architectural finish. It is elegantly fitted up, and has a deep medallion pattern cornice around the summit of the side wall.

EXTENSIVE BURGLARY IN THE CITY.—An extensive robbery of plate and jewellery took place at the house of Mr. Muddell, No. 6, Little St. Thomas Apostle, Queen-street, Cheapside, a few nights ago, the house having been broken into during the absence of the family. A reward of £30 is offered for the apprehension of the thieves.

FIRE IN GUILDFORD-STREET, AND LOSS OF FOUR LIVES.—In our late impression, last week, we gave an account of a fire, attended with the loss of four lives, which took place last Saturday morning, at the residence of Mr. John Fayer, civil engineer, No. 67, Guildford-street, Russell square. The police effected an entrance at the stables in rear of the house, in Colonnade Mews, and succeeded in assisting the escape of the coachman, William Dillon, his wife, and two children. Several constables, headed by Mr. Grimwood and Inspector Dudley, obtained access to the roof of Mr. Fayer's house by entering Mrs. Auste's residence, which is adjoining. They here found that the cook, Mary Hall; Sarah Wall, the parlour maid; Maria Tanner, the housemaid; and Wm. Hall, the son of the cook; who slept in the back room of the third floor and in the attic, had escaped in their night-dresses, by a door leading on to the leads. They were immediately assisted into Mrs. Auste's house. As the flames were much increased by the wind, great fear was entertained that Mr. John Fayer and his wife, who slept in the second floor, and Mr. Edward Fayer, their son, who slept in the front room third floor, would perish. In a few minutes, however, before the whole of the upper floorings gave way, they succeeded in gaining the door on the leads, and were conducted by the police to Mrs. Auste's; and, after dressing themselves, were taken to a friend of the family, Mrs. Martineau, who resides at No. 53, opposite. By seven o'clock the fire was subdued, the houses on each side not being much damaged. Shortly afterwards the body of police-constable E 182 (named Birkmyre), was taken out; the poor fellow groaned once or twice, but died immediately afterwards. A second police-constable E 128 (named Wright), also perished in the ruins. Both the constables, it would appear, lost their lives in endeavouring to assist Jenkins, the groom, in the removal of the servants' property from the lower part of the house. The other inmates of the house were William Robinson, a lad aged 15, employed in Mr. Fayer's office, and Charles Jenkins, the groom. The former slept with young Hall in the attic, who returned no less than three times into the room, after having been aroused, to awake his bed-fellow, but he failed to make him sensible of the danger to which he was exposed, and the poor fellow was buried beneath the ruins. The other victim, Jenkins, resided in the immediate neighbourhood. On hearing of the fire he got up to render what assistance he could. He went in and out several times, and at length fell a victim to his impetuity—for he had scarcely entered the last time when the house fell in upon him. Like most other fires, the origin of it cannot be distinctly ascertained, but it is supposed to have been quite accidental. On Tuesday afternoon an inquest was held on the remains of the sufferers at the Angel Inn, High-street, St. Giles's, before Mr. Wakley. The jury having been sworn, proceeded to view the bodies, all of which are lying at St. Giles's Workhouse. The names of the sufferers as above stated are—William Robinson, aged 15, assistant-clerk to Mr. Fayer, the occupier of the house destroyed; he was burnt to death in the attic, and his body presented a shocking spectacle, being burnt almost to a cinder. Robert Birkmyre, aged 20, policeman, who was crushed by the falling timber, but taken out alive, on the morning of the fire. Charles Jenkins, the groom, aged 29; and John Wright, policeman, aged 29, recovered from the ruins on Tuesday, crushed to death. On the return of the jury, the Coroner inquired if anything was known as to the cause of the fire?—Mr. Fayer, who was present, and appeared very ill, said that nothing was known of it. The conjecture was that the fire came out of the chimney due.—Some further conversation took place; and, at the request of the jury, the inquest was adjourned till Monday next, in order that the premises might be examined and the cause of the calamity, if possible, discovered.

SUDDEN DEATH IN A CAB.—On Tuesday afternoon an inquest was held at the Crown Tavern, Westminster-road, before Mr. W. Carter, on the body of an elderly man named Woods, a retired news-vender, who died suddenly in a cab. The deceased had resided near the Temple, and was on his way to the house of his daughter, who lived in Belvidere-road, Lambeth, on Friday night, when the cabman, on opening the door, found him quite dead. Medical assistance was procured by the daughter, but of course was of no avail. Verdict, "Died by the visitation of God."

DEATH FROM A TRIFLING CUT.—On Tuesday a young man of the name of Dawson, living in Church-street, Millbank, died in Westminster Hospital under very singular and melancholy circumstances. It appeared that a few days before he was chopping a piece of meat, in doing which he slightly cut his thumb; he took no notice of it at the time, but finding it afterwards got worse, he had some application made to it, which had no effect. He was then admitted into the hospital, but mortification quickly ensued, from the effects of which he died. He was a young man in the prime of life.

THE WEATHER AT HOME AND ABROAD.

ENGLAND.

The weather during the first part of the week was exceedingly cold, and there was a cutting easterly wind. The thermometer at the Receiving-house, Hyde-park, was during Monday night down to 31 degrees, but at seven o'clock on Tuesday morning the mercury had risen to 33½ degrees, and by twelve o'clock (noon) to 34 degrees. In the early part of the morning the wind shifted N.E. to nearly S., but in the course of the afternoon, it veered back again to E. At seven o'clock in the evening the thermometer had again fallen to 32½ degrees; and the time of the full moon (29 minutes past seven, P.M.), there was a sleet driving with the wind, which was still East. The lovers of skating disported themselves in considerable numbers in the various parks during the day. No accidents occurred, except in the Regent's-park, where two or three gentlemen got into the water, but were speedily released by the officers of the Humane Society.

On Tuesday the surface of the Thames at flood and ebb tide was partially covered with floating ice, but not such as to cause any material obstruction to the navigation. The docks are still clear of ice, but the canals are partly frozen. Owing to the prevailing easterly winds, which have now lasted upwards of three weeks, there are no fewer than 120 sail of vessels, outward bound, detained in various parts of the river.

On Wednesday morning, the thermometer was at 37 degrees, but towards evening it fell to 33 degrees. The wind during the day blew chiefly from the east, and was occasionally very cold and piercing. The atmosphere, however, was rather hazy, and apparently humid, giving indication of a thaw. It being a holiday, and the weather rather fine and dry for the season, a considerable number of persons from an early hour congregated in the vicinity of the ornamental waters of the parks. On the round pond and long water in Kensington-gardens there were during the day between 3,000 and 4,000 skaters and sliders. In the Regent's-park there were about 5,000, though the ice was only about two-and-a-half inches thick, and in a very dangerous condition. On Thursday night the tendency was to a thaw, but it was still very cold.

FRANCE.

The late severe weather had the effect of forcing the wolves in several parts of France to leave their lurking-places, and come nearer than usual to human habitations in search of food. Close to Marseilles, two persons who lived at La Plaine found their passage barred by an enormous wolf. They at once fled towards the Boulevard Chave, and escaped. The animal remained all night in the neighbourhood, prowling about a stable of cows and goats, but without being able to commit any depredation. It was fired at twice in the morning without effect. Near Crepy the postman was followed for some time by four or five wolves, who seemed half-afraid to approach nearer. At last, when they appeared emboldened to form a more intimate acquaintance with him, he thought it best to throw down before them a little dog which he was carrying under his arm. He by that means got safe away. In the wood of Montpincon (Calvados) Marshal de Grouchy's gamekeeper killed not less than three wolves in two days. The number which he saw during that period amounted to eight.

The *Journal du Var* states that during the early part of last week a greater quantity of snow had fallen in the department than was remembered by any one living. All communications were intercepted for several days. The mail from Aix to Draguignan, which generally is taken in ten hours by three horses, was twenty-eight hours in passing over the same distance with eight horses. Several travellers were obliged to leave their vehicles on the open road near Escagnoules and take refuge in the nearest houses. At Carcassonne, the cold was so intense that one man was frozen to death in the Montagne Noire, and the body of another was found buried in the snow on the road between Quillan and Narbonne. In the mountains of the Upper Lozère, at a place called the Palais du Roi, the lifeless body of a priest was found wrapped in his cloak.

ITALY.

A letter from Piedmont, of the 16th, states that a great quantity of snow at that date covered the valley of the Po. At Turin, it fell to the depth of three feet, and so great a weight of it covered the roofs of the houses, that men were employed to shove it off, fear being entertained of the wood-work giving way. At Alexandria, Asti, and some other parts of Piedmont, the snow was nearly four feet deep, and when the last accounts left everything foreboded a most severe winter.

HOLLAND.

On the 19th, at eleven, P.M., the thermometer at Amsterdam stood at 767, and the thermometer at 25 deg.; on the 20th, at seven, P.M., at 771 and 26 deg.; and on the 21st, at one, P.M., 773 and 27 deg. During the 20th and 21st the wind was north-east. On the 19th the ice on the river at Zwolle was strong enough for foot passengers, but carriages were conveyed across by the ferry boat. On the 20th the ice at Nimmegen began to drift, an event which was announced to the inhabitants by the firing of cannon. The latest accounts state that the ice before the town and the immediate neighbourhood had completely broken up. Passengers and carriages, with the exception of diligences, were conveyed across the Old Rhine, at Utrecht, by the ferry boats. A few days previously the ice was crossed on foot.



GREAT NATIVE PROCESSION, IN NEW YORK.

EXPLOSION OF A MAGAZINE IN A NATIVE PROCESSION AT NEW YORK.

We have just received from our artist at New York, the sketch of the annexed spirited representation of a procession of the the Native American Party, at New York, on Friday, the 16th ult. The muster took place at half past one o'clock; and at about ten minutes before two o'clock, the head of the column en route passed by the City Hall, up Broadway. It was preceded by a respectable number of marshals with cocked hats, badges, and devices of their party. Immediately after them rode six or eight men attired fantastically as Indian warriors, all mounted. Then came their banners and some flags, which were somewhat remarkable. The Bible appeared in some fifty different shapes and flags in the whole line, thus—"The Bible—it was bequeathed by our pilgrim fathers, we will protect and defend it." Again, "The Bible, without note or comment; it must be used in our public schools, William H. Seward and Bishop Hughes to the contrary notwithstanding." Again, a large flag, with "No Union of Church and State." Some of the wards had large cars drawn by six and eight horses, filled with children, all alluding to the Bible or public schools—such as thus: The cars were covered with flags with the following mottoes: "Our public schools, with the Bible as the natives will have them." Again, "Our schools must be governed by Americans and not foreigners." "Beware of foreign influence." One large car had a flag with, "Beware of Popery and foreign influence; it has deprived 33 of our public schools of the Bible." And a number with, "Americans must rule America," appeared in nearly every ward association. A large flag, with the inscription, "History and experience show the baneful effects of foreign influence;" and under this were some dozen flags with smaller devices. The watchmen figured largely with their flags and devices; among them there were several flags, such as "We watch for all;" "The Bible, the basis of education; those who burn it, would burn us if they had the power." One car from the twelfth ward was highly decorated with flags, &c. On one was, "American Republicans, up, pure spirit, up." On another, "Our American Archer."

Some dozen of flags had the inscription, "Beware of Foreign Influence;" but among the most notable were two having an eagle flying with a dead coon and a cock in his talons, with the inscription, "Ah! my lads, I have ye both." The seventh ward had a large and conspicuous banner, with, "21 Years' Residence—The Ballot Box, a Rich Legacy, Americans Defend It;" another, "Oppression to None, Justice to Ourselves." In

a word, nearly all the banners, flags, and devices had some allusion to the public schools, the Bible, resistance to foreign influence, and twenty-one years' residence as a qualification for citizenship.

The procession was orderly and decorous in their march; but when the procession had reached Second-street, near avenue A, and the gunner was in the act of firing a salute from the Miniature Ship, carried among the banners, &c., the powder-magazine exploded, carried away a large piece out of the side of the vessel, and shattered several windows in the vicinity. We regret to learn that two or three boys were severely hurt by the catastrophe.

The weather being fine, the procession extended their march as far as was contemplated, through the principal streets of our city, and the different associations were dismissed about thirty minutes past four, P.M.

We are of opinion that the entire force of the procession may have been about 4000.

WRECK OF THE VANGUARD STEAM-SHIP.

We are indebted to a correspondent for the annexed sketch of the wreck of the Vanguard steam-ship, as she lay, a few days since, on the rocks inside the entrance to Cork harbour. We gather from the *Cork Reporter* of the 14th inst., the following particulars of the accident from a passenger:—

"On Thursday, at eleven o'clock, the Vanguard, iron-built steamer, the property of the Dublin and Glasgow Steam Company, left Dublin, with about 40 passengers, and a large cargo, the wind at the time blowing desperately hard, accompanied with rain and sleet. The vessel, however, made a splendid run to the Light-house, near Cove, when the accident took place, at about half-past three A.M. When the Vanguard was nearing the above place, the captain was standing at the wheel, this being about half-past three o'clock this morning. The moment the captain saw he was abreast of the light, he moved forward to get on the paddle-box, but three or four minutes elapsed before he made his way. He then called to the man at the helm to put the helm a-starboard, and before he had time to repeat his commands, the vessel struck upon a rock, a little inside the Light-house, and almost opposite the Water-guard Station. At this moment, the most awful consternation prevailed on board, while the vessel itself was wrapped in a mist, which made it almost impossible to discern the light, though the vessel was abreast of it. There was a tremendous swell rolling at the time, which was drifting the vessel furiously up the rock. The captain endeavoured to back the vessel off, but in

vain. Two guns were then fired, and lights were shown on the shore, but no person attempted to come off. Within a few hours the cabin began to fill with water, and all the passengers came on deck, where the furniture of the vessel had been also removed.

"At seven o'clock a boat of the Water-guards came alongside, when the writer, at the request of the captain, came off with two men into Cove, where he made known the occurrence to the different agents, and got all the large boats in the place to go out to the assistance of the steamer, and by this means all the persons on board, between thirty and forty in number, were conveyed ashore in the Ocean steamer. No blame whatever is to be attached to the captain, who, to do him justice, left nothing undone to save the vessel and passengers, not only by his own presence of mind, but by the prompt and ready directions which he issued from time to time. The captain reported that the situation of the vessel was most critical; the after-hold was full of water. There were several horses and carriages on board, which did not suffer, and the passengers' luggage was saved."

NOOKS AND CORNERS OF OLD ENGLAND.

THE SYDNEY OAK, AT PENSURST.

About six miles north of Tunbridge Wells, lies Penshurst Place, an embattled mansion of the time of Edward III., and the seat of the Sydneys from the time of Edward VI. The passenger by the South Eastern Railway may be reminded of the association of the Sydneys and Penshurst, upon his arrival at the Tunbridge station, though he will have little time for retrospection upon the glories of this olden place. It may be sufficient, however, to remind him, that at Penshurst, was born, on Nov. 29, 1554, Sir Philip Sydney, "whose spirit was too high for the court, and his integrity too stubborn for the cabinet." To commemorate the event of Sir Philip's birth, the oak represented in the engraving, is said to have been planted. Its bole measures about 28 feet in circumference. Waller thus refers to the planting of the tree:—

"Go, boy, and carve this passion on the bark
Of yonder tree, which stands the sacred mark
Of noble Sydney's birth; when such benign—
Such more than mortal-making stars did shine,
That there it cannot but for ever prove
The monument and pledge of humble love."

Ben Jonson thus alludes to this tree, in his "Forest:—

"Thou hast thy walks for health as well as sport,
Thy mount to which the Dryads do resort,
When Pan and Bacchus their high feasts have made
Beneath the broad beech and the chestnut shade.
That tall tree, too, which of a nut was set,
At his great birth, where all the Muses met."

In a poem, by E. Coventry, are these lines:—

"What genius points to yonder oak!
What raptures does thy soul invoke!
There let me hang a garland high,
There let my muse her accents try:
Be there my earliest homage paid,
Be there my latest vigils made;
For thou wast planted in the earth
The day that shone on Sydney's birth."



"THE SYDNEY OAK," AT PENSURST.

The character of Sir Philip Sydney is one of the finest in the long line of English chivalry. He was "a gentleman finished and complete, in whom mildness was associated with courage, erudition mollified by refinement, and courtliness dignified by truth. He is a specimen of what the English character is capable of producing, when foreign admixtures had not destroyed its simplicity, or politeness debased its honour. Of such a stamp was Sir Philip Sydney, and as such every Englishman has reason to be proud of him." Sir Walter Raleigh called him "the English Petrarch." The chivalry of his character, his learning, generous patronage of talent, and his untimely fate, contribute to make him an object of great interest. "He trod," says the author of the "Effigies Poeticæ," from his cradle to the grave amidst incense and flowers, and died in a dream of glory."

NEW MUSIC.

MY OWN LAND. Song written by G. LINLEY, Esq. Composed by L. LAVENU. Addison and Hodson.

No country in the world has been more rich in the production of native melody than England, and at the same time no country has been so indifferent to her own produce. Unless a tune be localised in a drama, and then too in an interesting situation, it falls flat upon the common ear, and becomes even a matter of indifference to the elegant. Hundreds of beautiful airs are daily born in our climate to an ephemeral existence, while their inferiors, imported from the continent, manage to live for more than a season or two. Mr. Lavenue is a young composer; no fault, for Mozart was so once, and is possessed of considerable inventive faculty, skill, and taste. The composition before us is replete with beauty—full of simple and graceful melody floating upon quaint and original harmonies. It is a most charming ballad, and though it can speak for itself, yet heard through the eloquent interpretation of Miss E. Lucombe, it cannot fail to delight all auditors.

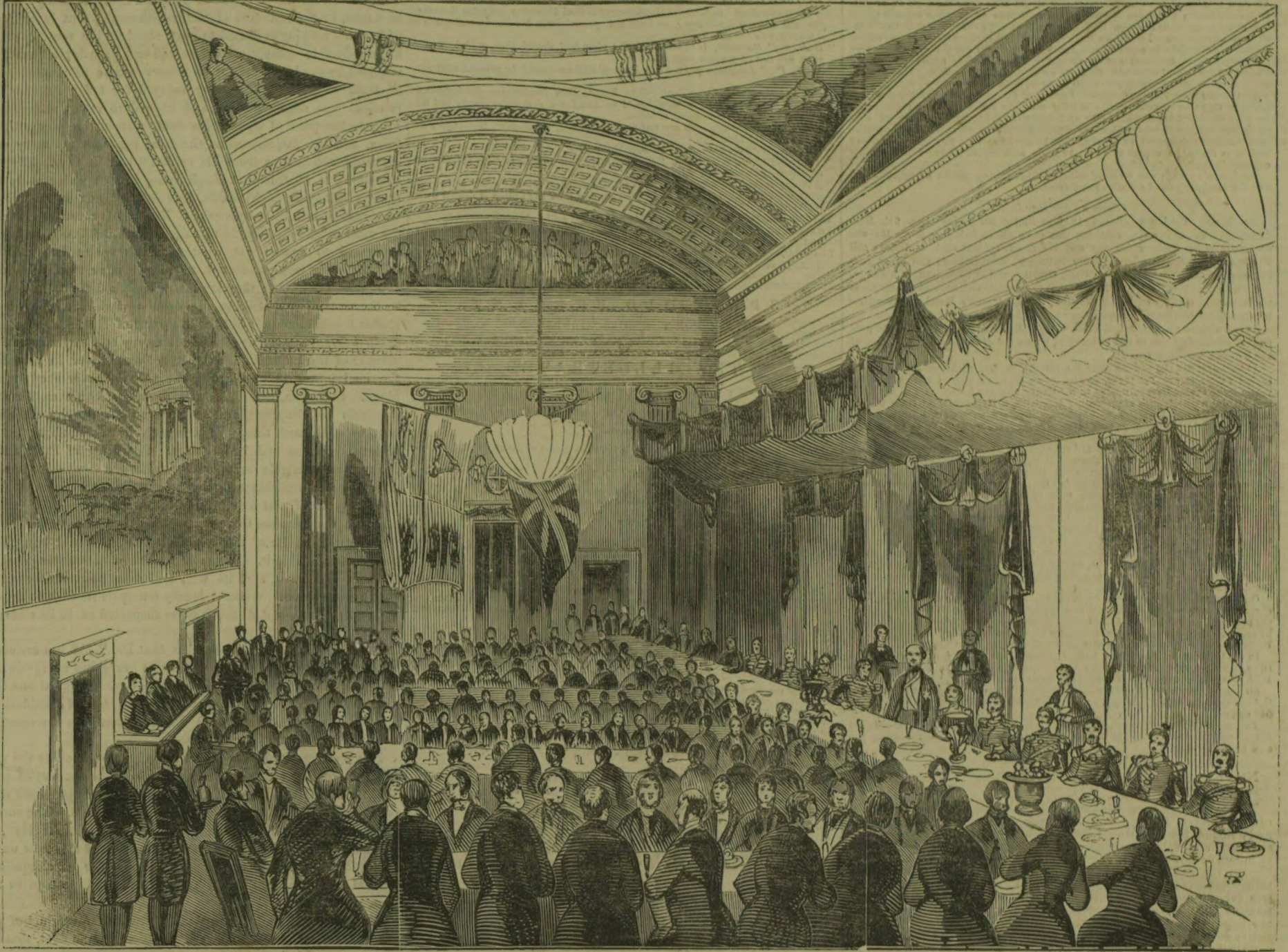
THE DAUGHTER OF ST. MARK. Opera. The music by M. W. BALFE. Chappell, New Bond-street.

Of the general merit of this music we have already given an opinion in our notice on its first production. We shall now enter into a few details. "The Gondolier" (ballad sung by Miss Rainforth) is a pretty melody, easy of performance, and effective even in mediocre hands. The song, "When all around our Path is Dreary," is as dolorous a composition as could be written for Borani's style of lugubrious chant. The canon (which should have been termed canone or round), "If True his Tale," wants the *ars celandi artem*—its construction is too apparent from the commencement. Moreover, the stuttering subdivisions of the verbal as well as vocal phrases and syllables, are intolerable. The ballad, "We may be Happy Yet," is pretty, and further deponent sayeth not. The trombone symphony is quite preposterous. Mr. Burrowes' arrangements, in four books of the airs, &c., for the pianoforte, with an *ad libitum* accompaniment for the flute, are in his usual correct and graceful manner.

MISS CLARA WEBSTER.—Unfortunately, the death of this accomplished dancer has not been the only evil attendant upon the late sad accident at Drury-lane Theatre. A nurse of the name of Huld, supplied on the urgency of the case from the Middlesex Hospital to attend upon Miss Webster, fell down the stairs, and upon being conveyed back to the hospital was found to have sustained a serious fracture of the knee. She is now lying in the accident ward, whilst a sickly husband and three young children are deprived of the support they obtained from her labour.



WRECK OF "THE VANGUARD" STEAMER, OFF CORK LIGHTHOUSE.



GRAND BANQUET TO SIR H. POTTINGER, AT MANCHESTER.

BANQUET TO SIR HENRY POTTINGER AT MANCHESTER.

Yesterday (Friday) week a banquet was given at Manchester to Sir Henry Pottinger, at which the distinguished guest was received with as much enthusiasm as at Liverpool.

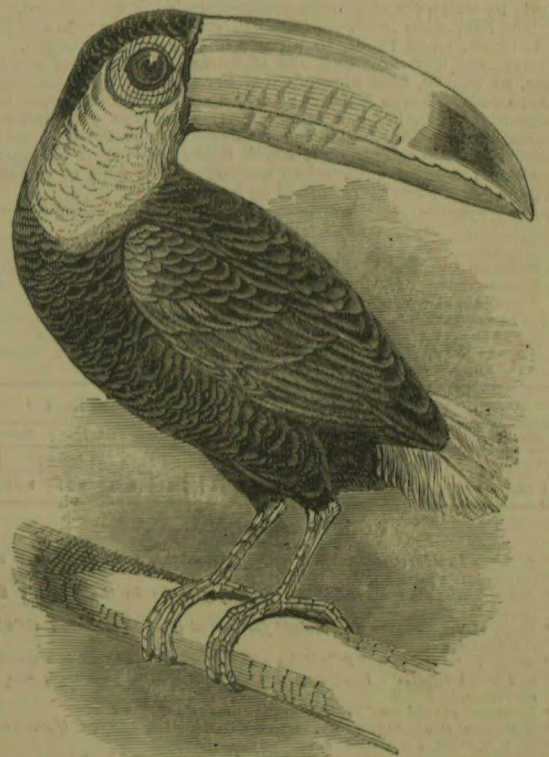
The entertainment was of a most sumptuous description, nothing being wanted that could contribute to the comfort of the guests.

The banquet took place in the Town Hall, which was magnificently fitted up for the occasion. Above 200 gentlemen sat down to dinner. The chair was occupied by the Mayor. On his right sat the Right Hon. Sir Henry Pottinger, Major General Sir Thomas Arbuthnot, Sir George Larpent (chairman of the London East India and China Association), J. W. Patten, Esq., M.P., Samuel Gregory, Esq., Colonel Malcolm, D. L. Burn, Esq., Dr. Woosnam, J. Macvicar, Esq., Archibald Hastie, Esq., M.P., Major Pottinger, R. Burgess, Esq., the Rev. Canon Parkinson, and Captain Eastwick. On the left were William Entwistle, Esq., M.P., J. M. McGregor, Esq., James Loch, Esq., M.P., Lieutenant-Colonel White, F. Pottinger, Esq., Colonel Brooke, W. Stewart, Esq., J. A. Turner, Esq., the Rev. C. D. Wray (sub-dean), Major Foster, Major Westons, Dr. Bowring, M.P., Robertson Gladstone, Esq., &c. The principal vice-president was John Macvicar, Esq.

After the usual toasts, the Mayor proposed the health of Sir Henry Pottinger, eulogising in the strongest language his character, and his great services in bringing about the treaty with China, which promised to be of such immense benefit to Great Britain.

Sir Henry Pottinger, in his reply, went over some of the topics introduced into his speech at Liverpool, but in the course of his remarks he gave some very interesting information relative to China. Sir Henry said, "When I was first appointed to go to China, it was, I am proud to say, totally unsolicited. I had been in India from the time that I was a boy of thirteen years of age. I came home to England; and I had very little intercourse with any of the leading men in both or either parties; in fact, I hardly knew any of them personally when I received an intimation from her Majesty's Ministers at the time, to the purpose that I should go out to China. Although my health was not quite established, I was ready and forward to do any service to my country, and I embarked for China with the full intention of doing all that I could, in a full and anxious exertion to carry out the instructions that I had received. Upon my arrival in China, gentlemen, I need hardly tell you, things were in a very unpleasant and awkward state; but through the valour of her Majesty's arms, and the distinguished services of her Majesty's navy, they soon came to have a better appearance. And as soon as that sort of persuasion induced the Chinese Government to listen to our terms, they were then more than ready to meet them more than half-way, and to show that moderation, which I am sure was best worthy of England, and which I am quite certain every person in this room would highly applaud.—(Hear, hear.) With that feeling, gentlemen, I undertook and I commenced that negotiation; and I had the happiness to meet, as already I have in another public situation stated, in consultation, my esteemed friend, the High Commissioner Ke-hing. The treaty was made as you have seen it, though afterwards there remained what were to me difficulties, and most important matters to be settled, in the commercial negotiations. There, however, I met with assist-

ance which I could hardly have promised myself. Some of the gentlemen attached to the former mission were quite competent to give me every information, and they did so. One of them, alas! now no more, was peculiarly a person likely to be of use to me upon the occasion: I speak of Mr. Morrison, gentlemen. The other is a gentleman with whom, I dare say, some of you are acquainted—if not from the first—Mr. Thom, a gentleman from Glasgow. (Hear.) To these two



TOUCAN, AT THE DUKE OF YORK ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

gentlemen I am glad to have this public opportunity of saying I was greatly indebted for all the information upon which the tariff and the commercial part of the negotiations were regulated. For you will all readily understand that my habits and pursuits were not of that nature perfectly to give me a sufficient insight into this question myself. I, however, did not shrink from the responsibility; and I need not say that it rejoices and delights me to feel that I have not only your approbation, but I rejoice to see that I have the approbation, as it were, of all England. I say 'all England,' for when I see her Majesty's present and late Ministers each combining to say that they approve of what I have done—when I see the City of London, the great town of Liverpool, and the still greater town of Manchester—what am I to believe? I cannot believe that any of you have thought it necessary to meet, and come forward, and to speak wholly without cause for an humble individual like myself. I am not, however, the less thankful and grateful for your kindness. Believe me, that your good opinion and your approbation (and when I say yours I mean that of all my fellow-countrymen) is the most cheering—the most heart-cheering—reward that I can possibly have. I believe that the treaty combines all the advantages that a treaty with China ought to do. I have studied, I did study, in making it, to prevent any feeling of jealousy upon the part of the Chinese; they met me more than half way, and I thought it was my duty, and I felt that it accorded with the greatness and the feelings of England not to make it exclusive. I was therefore happy to recommend to the Chinese Government, with a full experience, to throw open the treaty with all the nations in the world.



MOOSE DEER, AT THE SURREY ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.—See next page.

My own opinion of the treaty was, that it would take some time, at all events, to mature itself; and there were some of the questions as to what returns China will make to us, that are to us of the most important nature. But if that difficulty can be got over, I trust, as England can only benefit herself by benefiting China, and it will be in a great measure—I believe I may say that the advantages of the treaty to England and to all other manufacturing countries, will be almost unlimited. I calculate, from my own personal observation, that the immediate effect of the treaty will be to bring us into direct contact with not less than 120 to 150 millions of people. I speak of the seaboard; and my own firm belief is, that if we do not go too fast for the Chinese—if we allow them to see we have no object beyond kindness and commercial intercourse—that we have no exclusive feelings—do not look to anything beyond a mere mercantile settlement in their country—I do believe, that in the lapse of a very few years, they will be as ready, or perhaps more so, to trade with us, as we are with any other country."

Sir Henry's speech was received with most gratifying marks of approbation, and the banquet passed off with great éclat.

(From a Correspondent.)

Sir Henry Pottinger arrived in Manchester on Friday (Dec. 20), from Liverpool, by the train, reaching this town about half-past one. He was accompanied by Lady Pottinger and his family; Lieut.-Col. Malcolm; and Frederick Pottinger, Esq., and Major Pottinger, his brothers; and other gentlemen, including Capt. Eastwick, Capt. Ormby, and Dr. Woolson, of his suite. A deputation met Sir Henry Pottinger at the railway station, and the carriages which were in waiting conveyed the party to the Queen's Hotel, where apartments had been engaged for them.

At two o'clock the Mayor and Town Clerk waited upon Sir Henry for the purpose of conducting him to the Town Hall, where the address from the Council of the borough was delivered.

At half-past five the address from the merchants, &c., of Manchester was presented to Sir Henry Pottinger, in the Town Hall, as above; after which the presenter of the address intimated to Sir Henry that the inhabitants of the town and district were desirous of presenting him with a testimonial of their esteem and estimation of his services, and had entered into a subscription for that purpose, and would be happy, at his convenience, to have his opinion as to the best mode of appropriating it.

The banquet, of which the annexed engraving is a faithful representation, took place in the large room of the Town Hall the same evening, which was most tastefully fitted up for the occasion by Mr. G. Doreston, of this town. The dinner was provided by Messrs. Maury and Co., of the Pall Mall Hotel, and was of the most recherché character, being quite in the Continental style; and all the arrangements were of the most complete and excellent description.

The Mayor presided; and at his right sat the distinguished guest of the evening, Sir Henry Pottinger. The officers of his suite, Major-General Sir T. Arbuthnot, K.C.B., Sir George Larpent, and a large number of distinguished individuals were also present, in addition to the merchants, &c., of Manchester and the neighbourhood, by whom the dinner was given. The whole went off with the greatest éclat, and the company separated, after a very agreeable evening, a few minutes after twelve o'clock.

On Saturday Sir Henry went on 'Change, where he was received with loud cheers by the assembled merchants and manufacturers. He also visited some of the principal manufactories of the town. About four o'clock the same afternoon he received an address from the operatives of this town, which had been signed by no less than 10,438 working men in the short space of 14 hours.

In the evening Sir Henry and Lady Pottinger, their family, and the general's suite, were present for a short time at Half-holiday Soirée, in the Free Trade Hall, where they were received most enthusiastically.

Sir Henry had intended leaving Manchester on Monday, but in consequence of the indisposition of his youngest son, the General's stay may be prolonged for a day or two.

The subscription mentioned above, which had been entered into towards the Manchester testimonial to Sir Henry Pottinger, amounted on Saturday to the sum of about £3000.

NOVEL ARRIVALS AT THE SURREY ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

Two very interesting additions have been made to the collection of rare animals in the Surrey Zoological Gardens—a living Toucan, and a female Elk, or Moose Deer. The bird is the most singular of the two, and it has, in consequence, already been visited by vast numbers of our eminent zoologists; but it is with the public it will become the greatest favourite. It is one of a class—the Ramphastidae—so little known in this country, that only one living specimen was ever imported. Our bird is known to zoologists as the Ramphastos Toco, but by the marvel-loving sailor, he is called the Preaching Toucan, from the incessant "palaver" with which he cheers his native solitude—the virgin forest of South America. In his present confinement he has shown himself to be a docile, contented, and, in some respects, humorous, fellow—playing very strange pranks for the accommodation of his enormous bill, and using the most extraordinary care for the conservation of his stumpy tail. His plumage is of the gaudy and striking character which so strongly marks the region of his nativity, being made up of blue and white patches, edged here and there with yellow and little iridescent spots of lustrous beauty. In his instincts he is a very gluttonous bird, and longs to be chopping up large butterflies and humming-birds by the dozens. But, despite this unsocial peculiarity, we commend him to general notice, as a fine example of those extraordinary adaptations of structure, by which the exigencies of a creature's life are satisfied.

The Elk, *Alces Americanus*, is not less interesting than the Toucan, and likely, some think, to prove a more useful acquisition. It is a female, and of course destitute of horns. The male of the species has, we believe, been domesticated in some part of the extreme northern part of North America; and we are not without hopes that the present animal, being a female, may show the practicability of its naturalization here. During its residence in the gardens it has shown itself to be extremely timid, flying the face of strangers, and seeking the most undisturbed quietude. The cold of our extreme winter has apparently refreshed its hardy nature.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, Dec. 29.—First Sunday after Advent.
MONDAY, 30.—Royal Society instituted, 1660.
TUESDAY, 31.—Framstead died, 1710.
WEDNESDAY, Jan. 1.—Irish Union, 1801.
THURSDAY, 2.—Six Members imprisoned, 1641.
FRIDAY, 3.—
SATURDAY, 4.—

High WATER at London-bridge, for the Week ending Jan. 4.

Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m.	h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m.	h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m.	h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m.	h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m.	h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m.
5 16 5 35	6 34 6 13	6 37 6 19	7 24 7 51	8 21 8 57	9 34 10 13

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- "A. Z."—An advertisement in a newspaper might, possibly, answer our correspondent's purpose.
"Pekin."—will find a receipt for polishing shells in the "Boy's Book of Sports."
"R. R. H."—Pictures are received for sale at the Polytechnic Institution, or the Adelaide Gallery.
"M. L. T."—Boyle's "Principles of English Composition" is a sound work; and Leigh Hunt's "Imagination and Fancy," (just published) will aid our correspondent.
"Ecliptic."—should send his problem to some scientific work.
"A Musical Protestant's" suggestion would gratify but few, if carried out.
"X. Y. Z."—We have not room.
"A. B."—Swansea.—Mr. Moore is, we believe, in good health.
"A Subscriber from No. 1."—Cheapside, should try the Bath Establishment in Oxford-street.
"An Old Subscriber."—Liverpool, had better apply to a shipping-agent in his town. The emblematical engravings in the "Illustrated London Almanack" are the signs of the zodiac, drawn by Kenny Meadows.
"Pater."—Ramsgate.—Devonshire is considered to be the cheapest and healthiest county in England.
"A. B."—Birmingham.—Mr. G. E. Anson is Private Secretary to Prince Albert.
"A Subscriber."—Essex.—Quartobus is the name of the new patent cab.
"N. O. D."—The best mode of proceeding to Holland is, by railway to Hull, and thence by steam-boat.
"J. B."—Salisbury.—The pair of prints of Mignon (engraved in our journal of Nov. 30.) may be purchased of Messrs. Ackermann, London.
"J. M. L."—may obtain the "Illustrated London Almanack" of M. Pherson, Glasgow.
"A."—Johnson, Eden-quay, Dublin.
"Y. and Z."—We have not heard of steel bells, but of steel bars being substituted for church bells.
"E. M. O."—Nantwich.—We have not received the poem in question.
"J. B. T."—Margate.—By the strict game, the number not taken may be scored by the opponent.
"An Orphan."—has a legal claim upon the executors.
"W. T. F."—A parrot is a vast extent of uncultured land in America.
"Algernon."—The Rev. W. Harrison is morning preacher at the Magdalen Hospital.
HERNE HILL CHURCH is now called "St. Paul's." The other points of a letter from "A Resident at Herne Hill" are of minor importance.

"No. 41" is thanked.
"A Correspondent" inquires if Government intend throwing open the licenses for inns and public-houses: we trust not, for already, the low beer-shops are a disgrace to the country.
"B. P. G." Harwich, is thanked for the view and description, which, however, are not of present interest.
"W. F. P." Loughborough.—Our journal will next week be printed with the new type.
"Perth." Newcastle-upon-Tyne.—The Eccaleobion (apparatus for hatching eggs by artificial heat.) was exhibited in London a few years since; but we are not aware of its present location.
"A Subscriber." City.—We are not aware who are, at present, the singers at the Foundling Hospital.
"W. J. D. W." is thanked for his communication.
"A Subscriber." St. Austin, will find the historical anecdote of the continence of Scipio in Polybius or Livy.
"A North British Reader."—In Mezzotinto engraving, the plate is rubbed with charcoal, black chalk, or black lead, and then the design is drawn with white chalk.
The tale commencing, "Yes, how pleasant is it," will not suit.
THE LARGE PRINT.—Fair Play, T. P. C., J. W., G. J., S. A. M., R. L. H., and J. C. (Com. Rd. E.) will be entitled to impressions.
Ineligible.—The Sea Kneel, by T. H. S.; Lines on the late Miss Webster, by S. A. D. and J. D. Lines by a Novice.

S P L E N D I D P R E S E N T FOR THE SUBSCRIBERS TO THE ILLUSTRATED L O N D O N N E W S ,

The PROPRIETORS have great pleasure in announcing that on January 11th, 1845, will be presented,

A SUPERB PANORAMIC PICTURE

OF THE RIVER THAMES,

UPWARDS OF EIGHT FEET IN LENGTH.

Exhibiting, as distinctly as in a map, yet with beautifully picturesque effect, the "Royal Toward Thames," its "Forest of Masts," its crowded Docks and Port; its Fleet of Steamers; its Noble Bridges; its busy Wharves and Quays; and the various objects of interest and beauty upon its immediate banks, including—

GREENWICH, AND ITS SUPERB PALACE-HOSPITAL;

and showing the windings of the "Silver Thames" through the mighty mass of buildings that form the

METROPOLIS OF THE WORLD;—

Including the Streets, Squares, Terraces, and Crescents; the many hundred Churches, (with their forest of Steeple) Palaces, Columns, Arches, and Noble Mansions; Government Offices and Public Institutions; Club Houses and Theatres; embellished Street Architecture; Factories and Warehouses; Railways, Parks, and Public Walks; in short, a perfect Tableau of the vast extent, Architectural Character, and most recent Improvements of the

BANKS OF THIS NOBLE RIVER;

The entire Prospect being
EIGHT MILES IN LENGTH,
and embracing an Infinity of Objects of Art, Luxury, and High Civilization spread over a
CIRCUIT OF THIRTY MILES.

This magnificent Print is engraved in the First Style of the Art, from a most elaborate Drawing made expressly for the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS. The engraving has occupied the Artists for several months, so that the strictest reliance may be placed on its accuracy. It will be printed upon a beautifully tinted paper, manufactured expressly for the purpose.

With the Print will be published an engraved OUTLINE KEY, containing the principal objects in the View, with

250 REFERENCES.

ALSO AN

ORIGINAL DESCRIPTIVE SURVEY;

EMBRACING THE

Situation, Extent, and Population; Geology, Climate, and Social Economy; Historical Account of the Metropolis; and its Rise and Progress, from the British and Roman Period to the present time. With the history of the Thames, its Picturesque and Commercial character; its Pagodas and Holiday Scenes.

Among the descriptive details of this Colossal Print will be found a concise History of every Public Building of importance in the Metropolis and its Environs; with the height of the principal Church Towers and Spires, the names of the Architects, &c.; besides an immense variety of original information, never before in print, and extending to upwards of

TWENTY-FOUR COLUMNS

closely printed, and forming altogether

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from the best and latest authorities; written expressly for "The Illustrated London News."

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THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1844.

From the foreign intelligence of the week some occurrences of interest may be gathered; but at home, politics are entirely suspended by the festive influence of the season.

The maniac—for he seems to have been little else—who attempted to take, and so nearly succeeded in taking, the life of the King of Prussia, has been executed. At the time the sentence was passed on him, some disgust was felt in England at the horrible nature of it. It seemed too bloody and too cruel for any nation calling itself Christian. A law or a punishment long unused becomes forgotten, and, when some accident revives it, it is impossible to inflict it—the age will not tolerate its barbarity. We are ourselves open to the same reproach then made against Prussia; Frost and his companions in crime were sentenced to the old punishment for high treason, in all its disgusting and horrid details, fully as repulsive as that which, according to the Prussian law, was passed upon Tschech. It is said that the King made every effort to save the man's life, proposing that the execution of the sentence should remain suspended till after his own death, the task of enforcing judgment to be left to his son. He would have adopted any means to avoid the necessity of putting the criminal to death, could the law and constitution have allowed him. We can hardly understand how, in a monarchy of which the executive is all powerful, like Prussia, the power of pardoning should not be possessed by the Crown to the fullest extent. We know that the King can punish almost without check, and does and has consigned hundreds to long and wasting imprisonments, as bad as death itself and frequently producing it. Is it meant to be implied that the King of Prussia cannot pardon? It is said that had Tschech expressed the smallest compunction for his crime, had he made the slightest application for mercy, he would have had his life spared. But must the Royal prerogative be made dependent on what the delusions of a madman or an enthusiast may prompt him to do, or make him obstinately refuse to do? We can conceive cases in which a stern state necessity may make

it impossible for the Monarch to pardon a criminal, though averse, as a man, to the infliction of the punishment. But in the case of Tschech nothing is stated to have stood in the way of mercy but a refusal to comply with some old and probably absurd form required by the law, a refusal to observe some antiquated piece of legal etiquette. The King delayed for many months; the criminal was urged, prayed, and begged to relent, and save his Majesty the pain of signing his death warrant; he doggedly refuses, and his Majesty signs the fatal paper, faints away with agitation, and hurries from his capital till all is over. There is something in all this that Englishmen cannot understand; and though it may be uncharitable, it is difficult not to suspect the Government of a little hypocrisy. Nothing is more common in the most cruel and despotic of rulers. In Russia no man is ever sentenced to death; yet what criminals are to die is always known; they are sentenced to receive more than a hundred strokes of the knout; they are then dispatched after a few blows, by the executioner striking them on a vital part, death being almost instantaneous. But the Emperor of Russia never signs a death warrant! Oh, no; he is all mercy and clemency, in the manner of the Inquisition when it delivered over its victims to the civil power to be burned; the Church never shed human blood. In Russia, too, nothing is more common than for state criminals to disappear, and as no inquiries can be made in a country where such things cannot even be talked about, the occurrence happens and is forgotten. The King of Prussia is no doubt a very amiable man, and may have a great reluctance to inflict capital punishment. But much cannot be inferred from this in favour of real humanity—Nero wept when signing a warrant. If the Prussian Government really had such an intense desire to spare the life of this wretched man, it would have found the means of doing it. Forms and technicalities never yet stood between despotism and its will, and what power desires to do that power can do. When it loudly trumpets its wish to do, and does not, the avowed desire may be suspected as to its sincerity.

LETTERS from Constantinople state that Dr. Wolff has arrived at Tehran; every one will rejoice that this brave and energetic man has escaped uninjured from Bokhara, where it was at one time doubtful whether he would not share the fate of Stoddart and Conolly, the certainty of whose doom he has been the means of ascertaining.

It is pleasing to see nations borrow from each other the measures that have, where first originated, been productive of good. It is far better than the emulation by which they force each other to be cunning and skilful in the art of destruction. The success that has attended the low uniform rate of postage in England, has awakened attention to the subject in France, and it is now understood that the French Government have under consideration a general plan for lowering the rate of its inland postage to four sous.

We have so often had occasion to censure the conduct of part of the American people with regard to their public debt, that it is a pleasure to find an instance of honesty and justice prevailing over that "smart" dealing, so prevalent on the other side of the Atlantic. It is furnished by a statement of a case recently tried in the Circuit Court of the United States:—

A person named Daniel Carpenter had, for some time past, manufactured and sold a certain description of cotton thread, which was marked as, and represented to be, the "Persian thread" manufactured at Leicester, in this country. The article manufactured by Messrs. T. and W. Taylor, of the town just mentioned, is of very superior quality; that of the defendant was not only inferior but deficient in quantity, so that the reputation and business of Messrs. Taylor had suffered injury. One of the pleas set up by the defendant was, that he was not accountable to an alien and foreigner for using in America the trade marks of such alien. The proceedings had been greatly protracted, but now the case was fully submitted for judgment. The Court granted to the complainants a perpetual injunction against the defendants, with costs. The result of this judgment is to show, that in the United States foreigners are fully protected against this species of injury.

THE controversy that has been carried on about the practice of preaching in the surplice, has been this week brought to a sort of crisis. The Bishop of Exeter, yielding to the display of public feeling, called forth by his recent letter on the subject, has withdrawn his order for ensuring "uniformity," at least as far as the practice complained of is concerned; other points are reserved. The Bishop of Worcester has also given a reproof to the portion of the Clergy who have adopted this observance; these two events following so close on each, combined with the proceedings now pending at Oxford, on the book of Mr. Ward, will tend to check the manifestation of that spirit which has caused so much regret and concern in a large body of the Protestant laity.

THE COURT AND HAUT TON.

On Saturday last the Queen, accompanied by the Princess Royal, walked on the terrace and in the grounds adjacent to the Castle in the morning. In the afternoon, her Majesty and Prince Albert promenaded in the walks in the park and the grounds around the Castle for some time. His Royal Highness Prince Albert went to shoot in the royal preserves in the morning, attended by Mr. Anson, and returned early in the afternoon.

WINDSOR, Sunday.—This morning the Queen and Prince Albert walked out for some time. Her Majesty and Prince Albert, the ladies and gentlemen of the court, and the domestic household, attended divine service in the afternoon in the private chapel of the Castle.

MONDAY. The Queen and Prince Albert went out for their early morning walk. On the return of her Majesty and his Royal Highness, the Prince left the Castle, to shoot in the royal preserves, attended by Mr. Anson and Sir Edward Bowater. Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, Lady Fanny Howard, and the Countess Wratlaslaw, joined the royal circle at dinner. The Queen honoured Mr. Thorburn with a sitting-to-day for her portrait.

TUESDAY.—The Queen and Prince Albert walked early this morning in the grounds adjacent to the Castle, and visited the Duchess of Kent at Frogmore House. In the afternoon, her Majesty and Prince Albert, attended by the Countess of Charlemont, Lady Caroline Cocks, Hon. Miss Devereux, Viscount Hawarden, Lord Charles Wellesey, and Sir Edward Bowater, went to the small lake in Frogmore grounds. Some of the Royal party partook of the diversion of skating, the skaters being Prince Albert, Lord Charles Wellesey, Sir Edward Bowater, Mr. G. E. Anson, Captain Francis Seymour, and Dr. Frætorius.

WEDNESDAY.—The Queen, Prince Albert, the Duchess of Kent, the Ladies and Gentlemen of the Court, and the domestic household, attended divine service this morning, in the private chapel of the Castle. The holy communion was afterwards administered. The Hon. and Rev. Charles Leslie Courtenay officiated. Her Majesty and Prince Albert took their accustomed exercise in the course of the day.

WINDSOR, THURSDAY EVENING.—(From our own Correspondent.)—In consequence of the fog which prevailed during a great portion of the morning, her Majesty did not take her usual early promenade in the vicinity of the Castle. The infant Royal Family were taken out for an airing in the private grounds, in the Home Park. This morning, at ten o'clock, his Royal Highness Prince Albert, attended by Mr. G. E. Anson, left the Castle in an open carriage and four, and proceeded to the preserves in the Royal domains, to enjoy the sport of shooting. The Prince Consort returned to the Castle at two o'clock to luncheon

with her Majesty. The Royal dinner party, this evening, will include her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, the Countess of Wexford, and Lady Fanny Howard. Preparations are making for the departure of the Court, on the 7th proximo, for Stowe, to honour, with a visit, the Duke and Duchess of Buckingham. It is expected that the Queen and the Prince will proceed to Strathfieldsaye, about the 20th of next month.

HER MAJESTY'S AND THE PRINCE CONSORT'S NEW YEAR'S GIFTS TO THE POOR OF WINDSOR.—The distribution of the Queen's and his Royal Highness Prince Albert's annual gifts to the poor and needy families of Windsor, and of that part of the parish of Clewer, which is within the borough, which will be dispensed through the medium of the Lord Steward of her Majesty's Household, assisted by the Hon. and Rev. J. C. L. Courtenay (the Queen's domestic chaplain), agreeably to the recommendation of Mr. John Clode, jun., and the other churchwardens of the parish, will take place on New Year's-eve, in the Riding School, at the new Royal Mews, in the Home-park. It is expected that her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, attended by the Royal Household, will be present to be witnesses of the gratifying scene. One hundred and eighty pairs of 10-quarter blankets will be given to that number of families, agreeably to the recommendation of the parochial authorities. Nearly two hundred families, averaging five children in each, will also be supplied (the quantity being regulated according to the number of children) at the same time, with beef, plum pudding, bread, potatoes, and ale; and also one hundred weight of coals to each family. The provisions only which will be presented to the recipients of the Royal bounty, will weigh upwards of three tons! Her Majesty's Domestic Chaplain, who takes the greatest interest in promoting the charitable and benevolent objects of her Majesty and the Prince Consort has been very actively engaged during the past few days, in superintending the necessary arrangements for the proper distribution.

THE STATE APARTMENTS AT WINDSOR CASTLE.—A portion of these apartments, which had been closed since the death of her late Royal Highness the Princess Sophia of Gloucester, are now open to the public, by command of her Majesty. This portion includes the Vandyck Room, the Audience Chamber, the Presence Chamber, the Guard Chamber, St. George's Hall, the Ball Room, and the Waterloo Gallery. The following State Rooms still remain closed:—The Throne Room, the small Vestibule, the Heubens Room, the Council Chamber, the King's Closet, the Queen's Closet, and the Zuccharelli Room. It is to be regretted that the most celebrated paintings and works of art are contained in those portions of the State Rooms which are not open to the public. While the Court is at Windsor the apartments will be closed on Tuesdays and Fridays.

THE LATE PRINCESS SOPHIA.—The establishment of the Princess Sophia Matilda at Blackheath, and also at her residence in Curzon-street, are to be broken up on the 6th of the ensuing month, until after which period the vacancy in the Rangeship of Greenwich Park will, it is understood, not be filled up. Lady Alicia Gordon and Miss Cotes, Ladies in Waiting on the late Princess, are still at Blackheath.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES AMONG THE ARISTOCRACY.—The Queen Dowager is surrounded by a select party at Witley Court, Worcestershire. Their Serene Highnesses Prince Ernest of Hesse Philipsthal and Prince Edward of Saxe Weimar have arrived there to pass the Christmas with their illustrious relative. The Duke of Rutland has a numerous circle assembled at Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire, participating in the pleasures of Christmas. The Archbishop of York is at Bishopsthorpe, near York, surrounded by a select family circle. The Marquis of Anglesey has a select family party met at Beauchamp; the Earl and Countess of Sandwich, Viscount and Viscountess Sydney, Earl and Countess Cadogan, and Ladies Augusta and Honoria Cadogan; the Earl of Uxbridge and Ladies Paget; Lord Alfred Paget, Lord George Paget, &c. &c., have arrived there for the Christmas holidays. Viscount and Viscountess Palmerston's party, at Broadlands, assembled on Monday and Tuesday last. Lord and Lady Ashley have arrived there from the Earl of Shaftesbury's seat in Dorsetshire, and the Marquis and Marchioness of Normanby, Lady Holland, &c., have arrived from town. Sir Robert and Lady Peel have a select party at Drayton Manor. The circle is confined to the different connexions of their family. The Marquis and Marchioness of Westminster have the Earl and Countess of Grosvenor and family &c., passing the Christmas at Eaton Hall, Cheshire, that holiday being kept up at that splendid seat in the true old English style.

DEATH OF LADY BOWYER.—Lady Bowyer died on the 13th of December at Genoa. She was the daughter of the late Sir Andrew S. Douglas, Bart., a distinguished naval officer, who was captain of Earl Howe's ship in the glorious battle of the 1st of June, 1794. She was married in 1808 to Sir George Bowyer, Bart., of Radley Hall.

FUNERAL OF LADY CULLING SMITH.—The mortal remains of Lady Anne Culling Smith were, on Monday last, removed from Hampton Court Palace to Egham Church, to be deposited in the family vault. This mournful ceremony was attended by her afflicted husband, Mr. Culling Smith, as chief mourner; and also by his Grace the Duke of Beaufort, Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington, the Marquis of Worcester, and Lord Robert Grosvenor.

THE PROJECTED ROYAL VISIT TO STRATHFIELDSAYE.—We believe that her Majesty's contemplated visit to the Duke of Wellington, at Strathfieldsaye, will be deferred for the present, owing to the death of his Grace's sister, Lady Anne Culling Smith.

VISIT OF HER MAJESTY TO STOWE.—Soon after Christmas her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert will honour their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Buckingham with a visit at Stowe. The Court is expected to leave Windsor for Stowe on Tuesday, the 7th proximo, where the most extensive preparations are in progress for the reception of the Sovereign and her illustrious Consort. It has been arranged for the Court to proceed to the Wolverton station, on the Birmingham line of railway, en route to the seat of the Duke of Buckingham. At that station her Majesty will be received by the Bucks Yeomanry and Hussars, under the command of the Marquis of Chandos, which will form the military escort thence to the princely residence of the Duke. Her Majesty will likewise be met at the Wolverton station by the whole of his Grace's tenantry on horseback, bearing white wands, by whom her Majesty will also be escorted to Stowe.

NEW YEAR'S DAY IN ENGLAND AND FRANCE.—A singular, and, perhaps, unprecedented event, will take place on New Year's-day. The royal table at the Tuilleries, and the royal table at Windsor Castle, will both be supplied with portions of the same prize ox, the first of the class at the late cattle show. Mr. Minton, purveyor to her Majesty, having become the purchaser, politely offered, through the French embassy, to present his Majesty Louis Philippe with a sirloin, a rump, and an entire bone, for his festival on New Year's-day. The offer was graciously accepted, and the immense joint, or rather combination of joints, for it is in one piece, weighing 44 stone, or upwards of 350 lbs., is to be sent to Paris, and it will form part of the dinner at the Tuilleries on the *jour de l'an*, which is a great day in France.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

CHRIST CHAPEL, ST. JOHN'S WOOD.—The incumbency of this chapel, vacant by the prebend of the Rev. Daniel Moore, M.A., to the ministry of Camden Chapel, Camberwell, has been conferred on the Rev. George Fisk, LL.B., vicar of Walsall. This benefice the Rev. gentleman will resign.

The Rev. J. B. Smith, D.D., Head Master of Horncastle Grammar School, has been appointed by the Duke of Newcastle, one of his Grace's domestic chaplains.

PRESENTATION.—The Rev. Edward Johnston, M.A., has been presented by the Lord Chancellor to the Royal parish of Hampton, in the patronage of the Crown, void by the cession of the Rev. J. S. Goodenough, M.A.

THE DIFFERENCES IN THE CHURCH.—The Bishop of Exeter has published the following letter, with a view of putting an end to the differences of opinion lately prevailing in his diocese:—

TO THE CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF EXETER.

Bishopstowe, Dec. 23, 1844.

"Dear and Rev. Brethren,—It has been represented to me by many of you, in different parts of the diocese, that the use of the surplice in preaching is more repugnant to the feelings of the people than could have been reasonably anticipated. To those feelings, however erroneous, I deem it my duty to surrender what may be abandoned without the sacrifice of any principle. I therefore withdraw my order, as respects the surplice. That order was avowedly issued by me, not for the sake of enforcing an express rule of the Church, but in execution of the power given to me to 'appease a diversity,' in Divine worship, and so to remove a symbol of division amongst ourselves. If my object cannot be obtained in the way which I had pointed out, without leading to other evils of as grave a kind, let me, however, hope and entreat that in using your own discretion in this particular, you will so use it as shall least expose you to the reproach of cherishing party spirit. Wherever, therefore, the surplice is now used without offence, there, I hope, it will be continued in use. The enforcement of the rubrics rests on different ground. In them the Church has spoken clearly; and to the voice of the Church, when it gives not an uncertain sound, every true Churchman, and especially every faithful minister, will hearken with reverence and submission.—I am, reverend and dear brethren, your faithful friend and brother,

H. EXETER.

ORDINATION AT WELLS.—At the ordination of the Bishop of Salisbury, held at Wells, on Sunday last, his lordship expressly charged the candidates to make no deviation whatever from the accustomed mode of performing Divine service in their respective churches, without first consulting with their diocesan.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

THE CITY ELECTIONS FOR COMMON COUNCILMEN.

In our latest impression last week, we gave a notice of the elections for Common Councilmen of the different Wards of London.

Subjoined is a list of the numbers at the close of the polls where there was opposition.

BILLINGSWORTH WARD.—Mr. Bower 135, Mr. W. Curling (deputy) 128, Mr. T. Old, jun., 117, Mr. J. Knoll 109, Mr. Johnston 116, Mr. R. Rolier, 87, Mr. Phillips 93, Mr. J. Roberts 101, Mr. Williams 88, Mr. Francis 105, Mr. Hosack 74, Mr. Barnes 93.

FARRINGTON WARD WITHOUT.—Mr. Bedford (deputy) 455, Mr. Obbard (ditto) 383, Mr. Williams 416, Mr. R. Taylor 376, Mr. Burn 365, Mr. Eddins 355, Mr. Barnard 350, Mr. Stokes 325, Mr. Ramshaw 338, Mr. Hodgson 306, Mr. Buckmaster 361, Mr. Isherwood 330, Mr. Charles 298, Mr. Prendergast 341, Mr. Anderson 300, Mr. Harding 328, Mr. Gresham 287, Mr. Teverham 261, Mr. Sharpe 263, Mr. Lynch 276.—The first sixteen elected.

COLEMAN-STREET WARD.—Mr. T. H. Hall 92, Mr. D. Allas (deputy) 90, Mr. W. S. Hale 89, Mr. G. Phillips 89, Mr. Davies 87, Mr. G. Bracher 87, Mr. Perkins 81, Mr. Johnson 73, and Mr. Single 38.

PORTOKEN WARD.—Mr. Wright (deputy) 177, Mr. Kilby 170, Mr. Parker 153, Mr. Christie 163, Mr. J. H. Jatum 152, Mr. M'Kenzie 138, Mr. Hayward 132, Mr. Dunford 125, Mr. Scoones 85, and Mr. Vile 44. Those marked thus * are new candidates.

OPENING OF LLOYD'S, AT THE NEW ROYAL EXCHANGE.—The business of the underwriting department of this establishment commenced at the New Royal Exchange for the first time on Thursday morning. The area for the transaction of public business is expected to be opened to merchants on the 1st of January.

VICTORIA PARK.—On Monday a sale by auction took place, by order of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, of the ancient residence formerly belonging to Bishop Bonner, called Bonner Hall, which is situated on a part of the site of Victoria Park. The portion remaining, which is stated to have been a part of one of the wings of the original palace, is about 120 feet long, and about 20 feet in width, the external walls being the same that were first erected. This building has, for several years past, been separated into five houses, one of which was a public-house.

THE IMPROVEMENTS IN WESTMINSTER.—The long-talked of improvements which are to be effected from Westminster Abbey to Buckingham Palace have been commenced, several men being employed to pull down the houses on one side of Little Tophill-street. It is intended to remove the Almonry, Orchard-street, Duck-lane—and to form one wide and spacious street from the west door of Westminster Abbey to the Buckingham Palace end of Piccadilly. Orchard-street contains the remains of some of the oldest houses in Westminster, and a part of one of Oliver Cromwell's palaces still stands there.

THE METROPOLITAN PRISONS FOR DEBT.—The metropolitan prisons for debt presented a very different appearance on Christmas day last year to what they do on the present occasion. In Whitecross-street Prison there were this time last year upwards of 300 debtors, and now they do not exceed 130, notwithstanding a great influx within the last fortnight—no fewer than 70 persons having taken up their abode there in that period. The prisoners each received a piece of beef and some bread, and on New Year's-day a similar supply. In the Queen's Prison there are but comparatively few to the number of last year, and they were furnished with an allowance of food, besides other assistance. The Marshalsea prisoners are confined in the same prison, and in the act of consolidating the prisoners, passed two years ago, provision was made in regard to the contributions to those particular prisoners. In Horsemerger-lane there are only twenty-seven debtors. The whole number of debtors confined in the three metropolitan prisons is at the present period under 300, which is about a third of the inmates of last year. The act of last session, abolishing execution on debts not exceeding £20, has certainly been the cause of the present appearance of debtors' prisons, both in London and the country—in the latter, the prisons are nearly deserted by debtors. Creditors complain that the act of last session regarded the convenience of debtors, and neglected the interest of creditors; the latter being left to the honesty of the former, and compelled to ask in "bondsmen's key" for their money. By a return of last session it appears that there were in March last between 3000 and 4000 debtors, of which more than 1500 were confined for debt, exclusive of costs, under £10.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE CLARA WEBSTER.—The interment of the remains of this lamented young lady took place on Tuesday, in the catacombs beneath the chapel of the General Cemetery, Kensal-green. The funeral procession left the late residence of the deceased, in Upper Norton-street, Fitzroy-square, shortly after one o'clock. It consisted of a hearse, drawn by four horses, containing the body of the deceased, preceded by the usual mournful panoply, and in its turn succeeded by two mourning coaches, containing the chief mourners and other relatives of the family—two private carriages closing the cavalcade. The chief mourners were Mrs. Webster, the mother of the deceased; and Mr. Webster, jun., her son. There were also other members of Mrs. Webster's family among those who followed, and some gentlemen whose names did not transpire. The whole of the funeral equipments were white. The funeral reached Kensal-green about half-past two o'clock, and upon arriving at the chapel, the body was conveyed within that edifice, where the customary service for the burial of the dead was read in a very impressive manner by the Rev. Mr. Twigger, the chaplain in attendance. Among a group of some thirty persons previously assembled to pay the last tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased, there were several of her late professional companions. Mrs. Cooper (the wife of the stage manager of Drury-lane Theatre) and Mrs. Charles Mathews (Madame Vestris) joined the procession at the entrance to the Cemetery, and were present at the service in the chapel. The body was contained in a leaden shell, encased in an outer coffin, which was covered with black cloth, and studded with silver plated nails, but otherwise nearly devoid of ornament. On the centre of the lid was a plate, bearing the following inscription:—"Clara Vestris Webster, obit December 17, 1844, ætat 21." The ceremony, as may readily be imagined, was altogether of a peculiarly affecting character.

FIRE AT MILLBANK PENITENTIARY.—On Monday evening, at about half-past eleven, a fire broke out in the steward's room of the Millbank prison; by the prompt and judicious measures of the governor it was, however, extinguished before one o'clock in the morning.

A MATRIMONIAL CHRISTMAS.—On Christmas Day no less than thirty-six couples were united in the bonds of matrimony at St. John's Church, Waterloo-road. The happy couples were married in batches, and the ceremony occupied some time. Some laughter was created among some persons outside, on the arrival of a couple in a close cab. The bridegroom appeared to be about sixty years of age, and the bride not half his age; the former was assisted by the latter into the church.

CAPTURE OF A BURGLAR.—On Tuesday evening, about six o'clock, an attempt was made at No. 21, Walcot-square, Lambeth, which fortunately terminated in the capture of the burglar just as he had effected an entrance into the house. A gentleman residing next door was in the act of entering his house, when he perceived a man in the door-way of No. 21. He crossed the road unperceived, and watched the fellow's actions, when he saw the latter open the door, and just as the burglar was in the act of entering he ran over and pounced upon him. They had a most desperate struggle, in which the fellow beat his captor in a dreadful manner, but he did not, however, let him go until the arrival of the police, who secured him, and conveyed him to the station-house.

SINGULAR PRESENTIMENT OF DEATH.—On Monday an inquest was held before Mr. Baker, at the Ship Tavern, St. George's-in-the-East, on the body of John Smith, aged sixty-five years. It appeared by the evidence that on Sunday afternoon last deceased was walking along Whitechapel High-street with a friend, when he took notice of the number of deaths which were daily occurring, and of the several funerals which were then passing. He was then in perfect health, and observed that there were many at that moment who were as well in health as he was who would not be alive on Christmas Day, adding, that he thought he should be one of the number. On his return home he sat down by the fire to warm himself. A few minutes only had elapsed ere he suddenly fell from his chair insensible. Mr. Bingham, a surgeon, was sent for, who promptly attended, but his services were unavailing, life being quite extinct. Mr. Bingham said he could not speak positively as to the cause of death, but attributed it to natural causes. Verdict in accordance with the medical testimony.

IRELAND.

SIR HENRY POTTINGER.—This distinguished individual has accepted an invitation to dine with the merchants of Belfast, but the period has not yet been fixed.

THE CHARITABLE BEQUESTS ACT.—Archbishop Murray has issued a "Pastoral address to the Roman Catholic clergy and laity of Dublin," the object of which is to defend his acceptance of the commission under the Charitable Bequests Act. He says that conscience told him it "would be in him a gross dereliction of pastoral duty to fling away, through any human respect, the opportunity which this act, imperfect as it is, places within his reach of guarding in safety the treasury of the poor, and of securing for the services of the Church whatever property benevolent individuals may choose in the new board, to be permanently dedicated to that purpose." The Rev. Doctor then proceeds to review the Act, and, after going through this branch of the case, says—"Thus have you obtained, by this abused Act, important benefits, compared with which its defects are of little moment." This letter of Dr. Murray has excited considerable sensation and discussion in Ireland.

THE REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—Mr. O'Connell was not present at the meeting of the Repeal Association on Monday, and the chief feature was the return of Mr. Smith O'Brien, who made a very long speech on many topics. He spoke very much and very confidently about Repeal. "If," he said, "the Irish people were now to draw back, after all the aspirations they had uttered—all the pledges they had given—they would be recorded as the most weak and inconstant of all people, and deserving of the contempt of every age; but if they persevered and used the means necessary to success, his conviction was that success would be ultimately attained. Circumstances might occur to retard it. Every removal of our causes of complaint—every grievance redressed diminishes our power by so much; but he was bound to proclaim to the English nation that the wounds inflicted on this country were too deep to be healed. (Hear, hear.) The '30th of May, 1844,' would never, never be forgotten. (Great cheering.) England, when in danger, may tender us a redress of grievances; but we will trust alone to ourselves, and in our own national institution." Mr. O'Brien proceeded to say, that "the Repealers did not want to change their Sovereign. They were perfectly satisfied with their Queen, but determined to have a domestic legislature. They sought no rebellion; they would have no more unsuccessful rebellions. He was not one of those, however, who thought that a people were not justifiable in resisting their Government in certain cases." He next advised that all the boards of Poor Law guardians should record their opinion in favour of Repeal. (Hear, hear, hear.) They should record that it would be for the interest of the poor to have a domestic legislature in Ireland. All our institutions should be thoroughly nationalised. Our literature and our music required it; even science itself might be intimately imbued with nationality—witness the scientific labours of Professor Kane. (Hear, hear, hear.) Poetry also should be called to the aid of Repeal. He was proud to say that in this respect much had been done, for the "Songs of the Nation" might vie with the noblest productions of human genius. (Cheers.) The fine arts also should be brought to their aid, and music and reading-rooms should all go hand in hand. To all these instrumentalities he would add the moral conduct of Repealers. Every Repealer ought to be a well-conducted moral man—respectable in his station of life, whatever it might be. (Hear, hear.) If any collision, after all this, should take place with England, the fault would be England's, and not that of Ireland. (Cheers.) Their course was now to wait for events and bide their time—to prepare themselves for freedom, and show themselves worthy of it. (Hear, hear.) The rent for the week was only £178 11s. 2d.

OUTRAGE TO THE MEMORY OF LORD LIMERICK.—The *Limerick Chronicle* alludes to a disgusting outrage which took place in that town. It states that when the remains of the late Earl passed that office, on Monday last, such disgraceful conduct took place as was never witnessed in a civilized country. The yelling of the mob was terrific, and the tenantry who attended to pay the last tribute of respect to their landlord were assaulted, and their scarfs torn to atoms. The relatives of the deceased, in their carriages, received similar treatment, having been pelted with stones, and compelled to take refuge in the houses adjoining the cathedral. Lord Montagu and Sir A. De Vere were amongst those who were so treated. Lord Montagu is son-in-law of the late Earl; Sir A. De Vere, nephew. The late Earl of Limerick, by his last will, bequeathed a sum of £500 to be distributed amongst the poor of Limerick, a fact which renders the outrage still more infamous.

POSTSCRIPT.

DARTMOUTH ELECTION.—The nomination took place on Thursday. Sir Henry Seale, Bart., son of the lately deceased member, proposed, and Mr. John Teague seconded the nomination of Mr. Moffat, the Whig candidate; the proposer and seconder of Mr. Seale, the Conservative, were Mr. Codner and Mr. Cutler. A notice of disqualification was served upon the mayor, stating that Mr. Seale was a government contractor within the meaning of the 22nd Geo. III., c. 45, and that the votes given for him would be lost. Mr. Seale denied that he was a government contractor in any sense of the word. On the show of hands being taken, about three-fourths of the meeting held up their hands in favour of Mr. Seale. A poll was then demanded on behalf of Mr. Moffat by Sir Henry Seale; and the meeting separated. The polling was to commence to-day (Saturday).

MORTALITY OF LONDON.—The total number of deaths which took place in the metropolis during the week ending last Saturday as shown by the Registrar-General's returns is 1393, showing a very considerable increase of mortality, as compared with the numbers of several past weeks, and an excess over the weekly average for the past five years of no less than 47. This increase is attributable partly to the severity of the weather, and partly to an increased prevalence of epidemic, endemic, and contagious diseases. The deaths from diseases of the brain, nerves, and senses in the past week, number 209; the weekly average of this class, for the past five years, is 157; old age 125, weekly average for the past five years, 71; diseases of the lungs and other organs of respiration, 511; weekly average for the past five years, 285.

THE RIOT AT THE FUNERAL OF THE EARL OF LIMERICK.—Some further particulars have been received of the riot at the funeral of the Earl of Limerick, of which a notice is given under the head of Ireland. It appears that, having been rumoured throughout Limerick that the funeral would take place at twelve o'clock on Monday, the populace were on the *qui vive* from an early hour in the morning. The funeral left the palace at twelve o'clock, and moved on through George-street, Patrick-street, and Rutland-street. The carriages of the nobility and gentry of the surrounding district were in attendance. Among them were Earl Danvers, Lord Clarina, Lord Montagu, Sir Aubrey De Vere, Mr. William Monsell, &c. About one thousand of the tenantry of his late lordship were dressed in scarfs and handbands. Many gentlemen of the county and city wore crapes and weepers. The crowds of idle persons in the streets and thoroughfares were very great, and as the procession moved along there was a good deal of shouting and groaning. When it arrived at the New Bridge it was completely stopped, and then a scene of indescribable confusion ensued. The tenantry were hustled and pulled about, and the linen was torn from their hats and shoulders. The crowd was so great on the Bridge and up Quay-lane, that there was no proceeding. A most disgraceful assault was made on the carriage of Lord Montagu, who, on being recognised, was fiercely groaned and hooted. His lordship with much difficulty escaped, after some very rough treatment. Some say he was knocked down and trampled on—others that he was merely hustled. Mr. Samuel Dickson, likewise the mayor, and Mr. O'Neill, who interfered to protect him, received some ill usage. At length the excitement and violence became so great that it was feared the immense crowd would overturn the hearse and carriages and throw his lordship's remains into the river. A speedy order was given for the military, and two companies of the 15th Foot, and a troop of the 5th Dragoon Guards were almost immediately on the spot. In the meantime, Lord Montagu, Sir Aubrey De Vere, and others, remained in durand till the military came to their rescue. The populace then slowly retired, laughing and jeering at the parade of soldiery, whose presence could have been well dispensed with were the police at hand, as they should have been, to do their duty.

SERIOUS AFFRAY.—On Thursday night, about twelve o'clock, a serious encounter took place between a party of Irishmen and Englishmen, in Sussex-street, Tottenham-court-road. It appeared that the quarrel originated in a dispute about some game they were playing in the British Queen public-house, in the above-named street. The Irishmen challenged their opponents to fight, and several of them immediately commenced an attack, armed with bludgeons. One of the parties, whose name is William Tomlinson, residing in Chelsea-mews, Tottenham-court-road, received such injuries on the head as to cause him to be immediately taken to the London University Hospital, where he now lies without any hope of recovery. Several of the offending parties were immediately taken into custody.

SUICIDE BY STARVATION IN A LUNATIC ASYLUM.—On Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Baker held a lengthened investigation at the Five Bells Inn, Old Ford, Middlesex, respecting the death of Frances Wilson, aged 45, an inmate of Byle's private lunatic asylum, in the above parish, who died from voluntary starvation in that establishment. Ann Williams, a nurse in the asylum, deposed that the deceased was a married woman, and had been an inmate of the establishment since the 10th of last month. The deceased was a decided lunatic. The deceased had a disposition to abstain from food, and could not be persuaded to eat proper nourishment. What could be administered to her was generally done by some persons holding her head back whilst witness put the food into her mouth. She used to fancy that she was going to be poisoned. On Tuesday forenoon witness, assisted by a nurse named Jones, was engaged in feeding her with wine and arrow-root, and as the last teaspoonful was about being poured down her throat, her eyes became fixed as if death were coming upon her. She was instantly laid down on the bed, gave a deep gasp, and expired. Mr. Edward Palmer, resident surgeon at the asylum, said the deceased laboured under violent mania, raving almost constantly. Her delusions were various. She refused food, believing it was poison. He was in attendance upon her when she died. He thought that her death was caused by the weakened state of her system, arising from the circumstance of her having no disposition to take food. The jury returned a verdict "That the deceased had died in consequence of her abstaining from proper nourishment to sustain life."

A WOMAN BURNED TO DEATH.—On Thursday morning, soon after three o'clock, a police-constable, named Ayliffe, No. 270 K, was on his beat in Green Man-lane, Poplar, when he heard the screams of a woman, and cries of "Murder, fire," proceed from the house No. 3, inhabited by a female named Ellen Walsh. He endeavoured to obtain admission, but was unable to do so until he broke open the door, when the poor unfortunate creature Walsh fell into his arms with her garments blazing around her. Ayliffe, with great presence of mind, threw his great coat about her, flung her on the ground, and rolled her over until he extinguished the flames. She was burnt in a most dreadful manner, and Ayliffe immediately called upon the assistant of Mr. Baillie, the divisional surgeon, to attend her. After the usual remedies had been applied, she was removed to the London Hospital. Her case appeared hopeless from the first, and death has since relieved her. The woman went home intoxicated on Christmas night at twelve o'clock, and left a candle burning on a chair by her bedside, and the light communicated to her clothes after she had laid down. In extinguishing the fire, the constable's hands were severely burnt.

MORE DEATHS BY FIRE.—Mr. Baker on Thursday held no fewer than three inquests on the bodies of as many children, who had died from the effects of severe injuries from fire. The first took place at Poplar. A fine little Irish child, named Benjamin Hart, four years old, having, in his mother's absence, attempted to light a candle with a lucifer; in doing which one of the sparks from the match fell upon his dress and fired it. He was much burnt before the flames could be extinguished, and died on Tuesday night. The next case related to Bridget M'Grath, aged ten years, the daughter of a poor Irish labourer. It happened on Tuesday night, her clothes having caught light by going too near the grate. She was most frightfully burnt, and expired shortly after her admission into the London Hospital. The third was a child of the name of Bamford, aged eighteen months, its parents living at Blackwall. The accident was caused by her brother, four years old, who, in lifting her out of a chair, let her fall against the spout of a kettle, whereby she was much scalded on her left side. The verdict in all the cases was "Accidental death."

DEADLY MINING ACCIDENT.—On Monday morning a frightful accident, which caused the loss of eight lives, took place at the colliery of Messrs. Matthews and Dudley, at Bromley, near Kingwinford, (Worcestershire) in consequence of the breaking of some part of the machinery, by which means eight persons were precipitated down the pit, a distance of 200 yards, and were dashed nearly to atoms.

RESPIRE OF WILLIAM POTTER.—On Wednesday morning, Mr. Noble, the governor of York Castle, received a respite from the sentence of death, in the case of Wm. Potter, convicted at the late Yorkshire assizes of arson, at Wistow, near Selby, "until the further signification of her Majesty's pleasure."

FOREIGN.

BUENOS AYRES AND MONTE VIDEO.—Extract of a letter dated Buenos Ayres, Oct. 2:—"Circumstances of an extraordinary nature took place at the Mount (Monte Video) on Sunday last, the 29th ult., being nothing less than the seizure by the American Commodore commanding the United States frigate Congress of the whole of the Argentine squadron. We recall to your recollection the fact, that since the departure of Commodore Purvis, the fishing-boats of Monte Video are seized by the Argentines whenever they can catch them. On Sunday one of these boats was pursued by an armed schooner bearing the Buenos Ayres flag, and the latter having the best of the chase, the boat ran under the lee of an American bark for security, upon which the armed schooner, without hailing or other usual notice, fired shotted guns into the American bark, doing some damage, being at that time too, within range of the Congress's guns. The American commodore then sent an armed boat to take possession of the aggressive schooner, and then of the whole Argentine squadron in detail, lowering the flags of each vessel in succession. Commodore Grenfell, commanding the Brazilian naval force at Monte Video, sent a message to Captain Phippen, of the Argentine squadron, stating he considered the blockade to be void, as the blockading naval power had ceased to exist. Her Britannic Majesty's brig Philomel arrived here to-day, despatched by Mr. Turner, with letters to Mr. Mandeville; and there the affair stands for the present. We have detailed this affair to you because the consequences are likely to be serious."

PANTOMIMES AND CHRISTMAS PIECES.



T FEW periods have the theatres displayed such general activity in preparing entertainments for the Christmas holiday-keepers as at the present time. There has also been a marked improvement in the style and nature of the pieces produced: there is a certain degree of meaning or allusion in every effect represented. Formerly, a rustic ballet-kind of opening to the pantomimes, with certain mechanical changes when the harlequinade commenced, was thought sufficient; but now the opening is in itself an elaborate story—the drollest whimsicalities are therein introduced, and it forms perhaps the most important part of the production: whilst in the pantomime, properly so called, all sorts of sly shafts are aimed at passing or past follies and events. The burlesque extravaganzas too, are productions increasing in popularity, and more and more adapted to the general taste, bid fair to supplant legitimate comedy in wit and satire. In fact, the present, the burlesque, and the introductory portion of a pantomime, are closely assimilated.

DRURY LANE.

To the industrious and successful pen of Mr. Madison Morton, we are indebted for the pantomime produced at this house, which is called "Puck's Pantomime; or, Harlequin and Robinson Crusoe." The subject has been before treated in various ways but this ought not to militate against the representation of a popular legend in another form, since every author takes a fresh view of its method of treatment.

In the first scene we are introduced to "An Attic Story," the abode of an author (Mr. Hance), who adopts the pen for his profession, and is consequently in distress. But he is in the greatest trouble, because he cannot find a subject for a pantomime. Hereat, Puck (Miss A. Payne)—a very clever little girl, by the way—comes to his aid, and after introducing a variety of well known friends of all, both old and young, at last produces "Robinson Crusoe," on which they decide. A view of the island is then shown, with the ship high and dry, the ocean slumbering in the back ground, and the crabs wide awake in the fore ground. Here Crusoe (Mr. W. H. Payne) is paying a visit to the wreck, and shows "his private opinion of the useful and the useless," by pitching overboard a chest containing "the legitimate



SCENE FROM "HARLEQUIN CROTCHET AND QUAYER," AT COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.



SCENE FROM "VALENTINE AND ORSON," AT THE LYCEUM THEATRE.

drama." He is somewhat put out by a visit from the Caribbee islanders, and determined to avenge himself. The next scene is the interior of the island, and we here make acquaintance with Princess Tooralooa (Mr. Johnson) and her ten graduated brothers, who come to implore Crusoe's aid to rescue her lover, Prince Paramatta (Mr. Wieland), who has been confined by his rival and elder brother, King Pariboo (Mr. T. Mathews), a passionate monarch, in a cage, and is about to be boiled alive. Crusoe promises to assist her; and speedily after this the savages appear bearing the hapless Paramatta, who is so soon to find himself in hot water. The preparations are being made for this Caribbee picnic, when Crusoe fires an infernal machine at them. The savages fly. Pariboo and his club-bearer, Hankipanki, (Mr. Howell) jump into the sea, and are swallowed by the celebrated shark, San Domingo Billy, rendered otherwise so famous by Mr. T. P. Cooke, in "Black Eyed Susan." Crusoe now adopts Paramatta, under the name of Friday, and they go fishing, when upon landing the aforesaid shark, he disgorges his "two insides," who again show fight, but are beaten by Crusoe, and "the Princess' little brothers." In the following scene, Crusoe is represented with his guests, in the happiness of domestic life, with his goat, his parrot, and all our old acquaintances of the story book about him, as well as the Princess and her relations. Here again the restless Caribbees attack them, and an awful skirmish is about to take place, when Puck once more appears: the "house that Crusoe built" turns to a view of the sea shore, and his sea-chest into a steamer, which is to convey him to England. The characters are now changed. Paramatta becomes Harlequin (Mr. Wieland); Pariboo is changed to Clown (Mr. T. Mathews); Hankipanki "assumes the form" of Pantaloon (Mr. Howell); and the Princess is turned to Columbine (Miss Carson); and the harlequinade commences. The various topics of the by-gone year—the Morocco war, the Act for Insolvent Debtors; the baths and washhouses of the labouring classes—are introduced, and the pantomime concludes with a grand tableau of her Majesty christening the new Royal Exchange.

Notwithstanding this attractive story, and a very good opening scene, the whole affair moved heavily from the first to the last scene; nor was the flagging of that description which repetition is likely to improve. Payne, as Crusoe, obtained the most applause: his attack on the ship was cleverly acted.

COVENT GARDEN.

The arrangements for the promenade concerts, and the decorations of the Box Masque having been cleared away by a transformation as wonderful as any in the Christmas piece, after the time-honoured "Boeing-bright" tragedy of "George Barnwell," a new comic pantomime by Mr. Nelson Lee was produced, called "Harlequin Crotchet and Quaver, or Music for the Million." The characters and plot are to the fullest extent musical. Semiquaver (Miss Massall) the music-seller to the Fairy Court is beloved by Young Crotchet (Mr. Smithers) and Discord (Mr. Charles Marsh) whilst residing in a cot-

tage with her father, Old Demisemiquaver (Mr. Gouriet). Crotchet is favoured by Melody (Miss L. Lyons) whilst Discord is backed by his band, who rejoice in such names as Noise, Racket, Crash, Screech, &c. &c. These latter personages, resolved to stop the progress of music, determine to carry off the lovers, and having done so, Discord solicits Semiquaver's hand of her father, and tempting his avarice by a display of unbounded wealth, gains his consent. In "stave the fourth," the prisoners are seen chained to a bar and unable to frame a tune. The old man finding his daughter has already been carried off, is much enraged, and demands her restoration. The demon Discord, in a towering passion, orders them to be removed instantly to his Cave of Noise and Racket, when Melody changes the scene to the "Halls of Light in the Temple of Apollo." Apollo appears in the Star of Concord, and crushes the power of the guards of Discord, Flat, Sharp, and Natural (Messrs. Hann, Rogers, and Henry), represented in a pictorial manner on the play-bill, with the names very properly put beside them to show which is which, as without this guide it might be difficult to determine. Discord and her crew are defeated, and Harmony then causes to appear Two Harlequins (Messrs. Smithers and Spenser Forde); Two Columbines (Miss Massall and Miss Ryalls). Discord becomes Clown (Mr. Charles Marsh); Demisemiquaver with another, turn to a Pair of Pantaloons (Messrs. Gouriet and T. Blanchard). A great deal is made in the pantomime of the late civic excitements, even to "A Full Moon" and "The Man in Brass." The baths and wash-houses also figure; and in the physical portion of the attractions there are feats upon the corde volante; the Mazourka by two clever dancers from the Lyceum, Mesdemoiselles Adele and Louise; a Nigger Polka by Messrs. Marshall and Forest; an Irish Tilt by Mr. Forest and Miss Frampton, together with several athletic exhibitions. Every thing is at last brought to a satisfactory wind-up in "Melody's Home, filled with Harmony, Unison, and Love," and the piece concludes with the triumph of Melody over the powers of Discord.

After "George Barnwell," the Pantomime went off capitally, but had the fault of being too long. It wants cutting sadly, which will no doubt be attended to; and there were not many of those jokes and allusions which the public are now accustomed to expect in a piece of this kind. The scenery "hitched" several times, but this is excusable on a first representation. The Clown, Mr. Charles Marsh, wants activity. Mr. T. Blanchard was very good; and Miss Massall is an attractive young lady, with a nice figure, and an excellent dancer. The scenery is beautifully painted; and a mazurka, which must become very popular, composed by M. Jules de Ghimes, was played with great spirit and effect by the band.



SCENE FROM "HARLEQUIN AND JOHNNY GILPIN'S RIDE," AT ASTLEY'S.

HAYMARKET.

Mr. Planché, the originator of the elegant school of burlesque, which has since become so popular, and to whom we are indebted for such pleasant reminiscences of "Fortunio," "The Fair One with the Golden Locks," and all the costly extravaganzas during the Vestris dynasty at Covent Garden, has again drawn from the graceful stories of the Countess d'Anois, and produced a new dramatic nursery tale, entitled "Gracioso and Percinet." At the commencement, we have Mr. James Bland, the king of burlesque potentates, as *King Uxorious*, a widower unexpectedly bewitched, who, in consequence of his ceaseless weeping over the decease of his first wife, is recommended to go a hunting for another, under the care of his chief huntsman, *Lord Nimrod* (Mr. Caulfield). In pursuing the sport, himself and train arrive at a castle, inhabited by a wicked fairy, disguised as the *Duchess Grognon* (Mrs. Stanley). The duchess has a capital cellar, and at last prevails upon the King, who is somewhat of a grasping disposition, to marry her. On her arriving at the palace she finds the King's daughter, *Gracioso* (Miss Julia Bennett), so beautiful and so popular, that she immediately conceives a violent hatred for her, and imposes a variety of strange tasks upon her, which it seems impossible that she can accomplish. *Percinet*, however, "a fairy prince, and the perfection of lovers," comes to her assistance, and aids her in getting through her labours; and in the end the pair are both made happy.

The dialogue is smart, and abounds with happy turns and allusions, and the *mise-en-scène* is unexceptionable, not perhaps presented with the brilliant effect which distinguished that of "The Fair One with the Golden Locks," and one or two others of the Christmas fairy productions of the same author, but still excellent and complete in its way. Several favourite arias, among them—"When other lips," from the "Bohemian Girl," were introduced, and those sung by Miss Horton drew forth repeated applause. The whole piece passed off most successfully, the curtain having fallen amidst enthusiastic plaudits.

LYCEUM.

The well-known story of "Valentine and Orson"—the foundling of the forest of Orleans—has been taken as the groundwork for a burlesque at this house. The construction of the melo-dramatic spectacle on the same subject played some years back, has been closely followed, with the exception of the opening scene; but the whole of the dialogue is filled with whimsical point and allusions, and written in burlesque verse. The first scene represents the annual dinner of the "Fairy Foundling Hospital," in the Field of the Forty Fungi, wherein *Oberon* (Mrs. Wigan) appoints *Pacolet* (Miss Turner) to look after the foundlings at Orleans. In the second scene, we find their mother, *Belisanta* (Mrs. Woolridge), formerly the Empress or Greece, reduced to keep a school. She explains her history to her



SCENE FROM "CAT'S CASTLE," AT THE ADELPHI THEATRE.



SCENE FROM "GRACIOSO AND PERCINET," AT THE HAYMARKET THEATRE.

writing-master, *Blandiman* (Mr. Turner), and then prepares to take her young ladies to see the Royal visit to the City. The next scene is a view of Orleans, wherein *King Pippin* (Mr. F. Matthews) receives *Valentine* (Mrs. Keeley) returning from the wars, with a brilliant cortege and trophies. *Henry* and *Haufrey* (Messrs. Wigan and Scotres) are jealous of *Valentine's* popularity; and knowing that there is a wild man ravaging the forests near the city, they persuade *Valentine* to try and capture him, hoping it will terminate in his death. *Valentine* departs, carrying with him the love of the *Princess Eglantine* (Miss Farebrother), and arrives at the forest with his squire, *Hugo* (Mr. Meadows). Here he encounters *Orson* (Mr. Keeley) and his nurse the bear, *Bruina* (Mr. Collier), who lives at the bottom of a bear-pit, like those at the Zoological Gardens. The bear gets tipsy, and ultimately dies; and *Valentine* leads *Orson* in triumph to Orleans, in spite of the efforts made by an evil spirit, *Agramant*, to oppose him. The second act commences with the arrival of the brothers at the palace, where a grand banquet is given, at which the wild man conducts himself in a most unseemly manner. The *Duke of Aquitania* sends to request *King Pippin's* aid to rescue his daughter, *Florimonda* (Miss L. Howard), who is kept in captivity by the *Green Knight* (Mr. Emery). *Valentine* offers to release her, and the jealousy of *Eglantine* being roused, she determines to follow him, and for this purpose she arms the whole of her maids of honour. *Henry* and *Haufrey*, his old enemies, waylay him on the way, and try to kill him; but *Orson* comes to his brothers' assistance, and they proceed together to the camp of *Agramant*, where *Florimonda* is working a Turk in Berlin wool, to beguile her captivity. *Eglantine* also arrives, and a general combat ensues, when, during the *melee*, *Pacolet* appears and the sorcerer is vanquished. The scene then changes to the Hall of the Brazen Head, wherein the oracle gives out its replies, in the style of the "answers to correspondents" in the Sunday newspapers, &c. The relationship of the brothers is made known; *Valentine* marries *Eglantine*, *Orson* takes the hand of *Florimonda*, the fairies are called to the weddings, and all ends happily.

After an adaptation of "The Chimes," on Boxing Night, the burlesque was produced, and was completely successful. Our limits, and the late period of the week, will not allow us to do more than mention the great splendour with which it has been produced, and the general excellence of the performance. Mr. Keeley's *Orson* was the acme of burlesque acting, and his talented little wife made an admirable *Valentine*; whilst Mr. Wigan, by his singular imitation of a leading tragedian, brought down loud applause. Miss Arden was encored in a parody on "The Ivy Green;" and Miss Farebrother came off with great *eclat* as the leader of the Amazons, whose evolutions were loudly cheered. Mr. F. Matthews and Mr. Meadows were also very droll in their respective parts. It is in every respect as successful as "Aladdin." The house was densely crowded, and the audience tolerably quiet.

ADELPHI.

The Pantomime at this house is from the pen of Mr. Buckstone, and is called "Cat's Castle; or, Harlequin and the

King of the Rats," and purports to be "founded upon a categorical and doggerel poem, written by a Laureate, who invoked the *Muses* of the middle ages." We can well remember an old lottery print upon the same subject, which was published by Messrs. Bowles and Carver, who formerly kept such an endless repository of entertaining pictures in St. Paul's Churchyard. The whole of the opening of this piece is taken up by the warlike preparations and battles of the contending parties. We find *Whiskers*, *King of the Rats* (Mr. C. J. Smith), and the *Princess Molrow* (Miss Lonsdale); there is also *Prince Tortoiseshell Tom* (Mr. T. Ireland), and *Kill Cat*, Generalissimo of the Rat Army (Mr. Sanders); while amongst the officers are such names, in the feline army, as *Marshal Pantler*, *Colonel Purwell*, and *Major Fitz-spit*. The siege and blowing up of *Cat's Castle* is the signal for the appearance of the *Fairy Honeysuckle*, in a radiant star, who transforms *Tortoiseshell* and *Molrow* to *Harlequin* and *Columbine*, and *Whiskers* and *Kill Cat* to *Clown* and *Pantaloon*. A number of allusions to passing events are introduced in the Pantomime, as well as the topics of the past year. Hungerford Suspension Bridge and the Invisible Shell; the Running Rein Fraud and the Insolvent Debtors' Court; the Washhouses for the Million; General Tom Thumb—all leading up to a succession of dioramic tableaux associated with events retrospective of the year 1844, painted by Mr. Charles Marshall.

The business after the transformations proved somewhat dull; and even making allowance for a first representation, the machinery was very much at fault. The tricks were old, and scarcely brought a laugh; and the audience appeared as dull as if witnessing a tragedy. The feats of the Infant Lauri Family drew down considerable applause, and were really clever; one or two things here and there were pretty good, as the "Box of American stores," changing to Tom Thumb's carriage, from which a capital likeness of the "General" alighted, and bowed to the audience. There was, also, a cleverly painted scene of Dioramic Tableaux of the most attractive events of the past year.

PRINCESS.

The old melodrama of the "Miller and his Men" has been entirely rewritten into a burlesque, by Mr. Gilbert à Beckett, whose "Open Sesame," "Wonderful Lamp in a New Light," &c., are fresh in our readers' recollections. It is here called "Joe Miller and his Men," and, as may be supposed, is crammed with jokes of the quaintest kind. It commences in the Celestial Court of Bankruptcy, and goes on through the scapes of the well-known drama, with a ludicrous spirit of travesty. We have "A Grand Prize Robber Show," and the laying of the train is called "Magazine Day in Bohemia." Whether the audience were disappointed at not being re-



SCENE FROM "HARLEQUIN L. S. D.," AT THE SURREY THEATRE.

galed with the luxuries of a pantomime, or whether the fog (which gently insinuated itself into the house) damped their enthusiasm, we could not discover, but unluckily, the numerous bits in which the burlesque abounds, did not produce the effect which could have been desired. Mr. & Beckett might, possibly have selected a better subject for a holiday entertainment, but he could not have written smarter dialogue, or presented better opportunities for scenic display. The illustrious Joe favoured his auditors with a variety of jests, old as well as new; but the former appeared to be the more heartily relished. The piece is interspersed with parodies, not numerous, but humorous, and the performance was enlivened by Mr. and Miss Marshall in the dance of the "Bohemian Tarantella." Grindoff, the hero of this extravaganza, was represented by Mr. Compton, who proved himself a staunch supporter of the rights of authors. Mr. Oxberry, as *Lothair*, and Miss Emma Stanley as *Claudine* ("the child of sorrow and of Kelmor,") also did their best to ensure the success of the piece, which concluded in a blaze of triumph; produced by the usual combustibles resorted to on such occasions.

ASTLEY'S.

The harlequinade here consisted of a version of "Johnny Gilpin's Ride; or, the Black Witch of Edmonton," with a sort of necromantic opening, followed by some comic scenes of average merit; the main incident being the celebrated Citizen's ride, the rôle filled by "the popular equestrian, Mr. Wells." Mr. Barry proved as good a *Clown* upon the stage as in the ring; and Mrs. J. W. Collyer a graceful *Columbine*. The effect of the pantomime was, probably, somewhat anticipated by the first piece of the evening—"The Royal Fox-Hunt," which is a veritable treat, and a cleverly managed spectacle throughout. Our illustration of Gilpin's Ride tells its own tale.

SADLER'S WELLS.

The "Stranger" was performed at this theatre to an audience exhilarated from the effects of a successful boxing-day, but the piece not being sufficiently exciting for the spirits of the audience, caused it to be pantomimic to those desirous of hearing what the performers had to say. The grand attraction of the evening, the Pantomime, entitled "Harlequin Robin Hood and Little John; or, Merrie England in the Olden Times," commenced to a more attentive audience. The introductory scenes were a somewhat odd *mélange* of Robin Hood and Old and Young England.

Among the comic business, a scene of Prince Albert's bee-hives, wherein different trades are working at their employments, elicited great applause; as well as the appearance of a black sheep dressed in civic uniform. Prize pigs, and prize paupers, and a few other skits on popular questions, were equally successful. The descent of Young England, with the word "Equality," in large letters, and a scale, above which was "the new balance for the future," with a dustman smoking his pipe in one scale, and a gentleman a cigar in the other, was heartily received. Mr. Stilt, as *Sprite*, displayed feats of balancing, and was greatly applauded.

SURREY.

This house opened with, as the bill says, a piece founded on Shakespeare's "Seven Ages of Man, or the End of Crime;" and, as far as we were able to judge from the usual confusion of a boxing-night, was tolerably successful; and the great feature of the evening, the pantomime, from the pen of the indefatigable Nelson Lee, who has christened it "E. & D.," is very good, and will, no doubt, be as remunerating to the lessee as the one of last year.

It commences with the tomb of *Queen Anne*, in the land of mist. The *Sprite*, *Counterfeit*, is taking his rest in quiet, when hearing that there is a dreadful commotion on earth with *Lawful Coin*, he is anxious for his liberty, and *Queen Anne*, who suddenly makes her appearance, banishes him from the place. On the clouds dispersing, the interior of an "Enchanted Copper Mine" is discovered. *Queen Anne* and *King Fourpenny* are delighted to meet each other, and hold a consultation as to the best means of increasing prosperity on the land by aid of *Harmless Mirth*. *A Penny* is the coin that is sent with a mission, in order that he may, by his industry, become *A Pound*. The *Sprites*, under the superintendence of their superiors, soon coin a charmed penny—"a perfect beauty." The *Save-all* is opened, which is found to contain four farthings. A bright penny piece appears; *Queen Anne* takes charge of him, in order to convey him to earth through Fairy Land, to gain the aid of *Commerce*. We next journey to the exterior of the Golden Palace of *King Sovereign*. The *Princess Five Shillings*, heiress to the Crown, is now introduced. The Golden Monarch returns with his captives, he is welcomed by his *Queen Half Sovereign*, and, on preparing for the Royal banquet, the scene is changed for the Land of Plenty, *Commerce* is joined by *Wealth*, a mustering of the Fairy Court takes place, and a festive ballet succeeds. *Queen Anne's* cavalcade arrives in Fairy Land, where the *Penny* is changed to silver, and goes to seek his fortune. He falls in love with *Princess Five Shillings*, and offers her his hand, being aided by *Commerce*. The offer is accepted and they seek her parents' consent, which leads them to the Golden Palace on the coast of Guinea. Two *Half-crowns* are in readiness to receive his *Majesty*, who arrives with his *Queen*. The loss of *The Princess* is suddenly discovered, but she at last comes forward, hand-in-hand, with *Penny-piece*. Royalty looks upon it as a disgrace, and *The Queen* is fearful of a race of *Farthings* inhabiting the land. *The King* orders the *Penny* to be boiled alive, which catastrophe is prevented by the interposition of the *Fairy Queen*, who changes *Silver Penny* into *Harlequin*, the *Princess Five Shillings* into *Columbine*, the *Queen Half Sovereign* into *Pantaloons*, and the *Golden Monarch* into *Clown*. The hits are happy—Walker's Needles and Moses' Clothes Mart, the Surrey Gardens, &c., are among the changes.

Mr. W. H. Harvey, as *Harlequin*, Mr. T. Ridgway, as *Clown*, Mr. H. Corri, as *Pantaloons*, Miss Slater, as *Columbine*, sustained their parts admirably.

Herr Von Joel considerably added to the evening's amusement, by giving his extraordinary Imitations of Beasts, Birds, &c. The house was literally crammed.

OLYMPIC.

After "George Barnwell," a new comic Pantomime was produced, called "Old Bogie, or Harlequin Lazy Dick of Leadenhall." For the reasons above given, we cannot say much more than it was perfectly successful. Mr. Flexmore was an active and intelligent *Clown*, and danced two comic dances with effect. Mr. Ellar was an agile *Harlequin*, and Miss Wright a very graceful *Columbine*. Mr. Stilt also exhibited some wonderful torsions as a *Sprite*. Few of the tricks were worth noticing; the chief one being the interior of the Post-office, with *Paul Pry* reviewing the letter-carriers, and giving the word of command, "heat poker!" "melt wax!" "open letters!" &c. &c. St. Stephen's vestry also came in for a few rubs. The pantomime altogether wants spirit, but may prove attractive to the Christmas folks for some little time.

BURFORD'S NEW PANORAMAS.

By way of holiday attraction, Mr. Burford has just added to his Exhibition in Leicester-square, a finely executed panoramic painting of the City of Naples and its environs, during an eruption of Vesuvius: the time is night, and the stars and misty moonlight are represented with extraordinary accuracy and atmospheric effect; whilst the volcano is just beginning to pale its fires. Indeed, the stars almost twinkle, so forcibly do they shine out from the deep blue sky. The city, with its architectural masses, piled one upon another, borrows some remarkably bright reliefs from the volcanic fire; and points of the picturesque craft in the bay and harbour are, as it were, tipped with vivid light. In short, the whole picture abounds with beautiful and novel effects; and is, altogether, admirably painted.

In the two lower circles, the views of Baden-Baden and Hong-Kong continue to attract hundreds of visitors. The first-named picture has, comparatively, the finish of a cabinet painting; and the scene of our newly-acquired settlement, with its recently built houses, and varied shipping, is a clever performance.

CURIOUS REQUEST.—The *Publicateur d'Arles* states that an old lady, who died lately near that place, and who had always expressed a dread of being interred alive, had left by will a legacy of 600*l.* to the person who should, immediately on her death being declared, begin to tickle her feet, and continue to do so for the 48 hours which elapse between death and burial, in order that no doubt could be entertained of her being really dead. The mild servant, who had been apprized of this legacy whilst her mistress was still living, began to tickle her feet the moment her death was declared; but after 18 hours of almost incessant application, was obliged to relinquish the task from exhaustion, and was followed by another person, the two agreeing to share the legacy. The time having expired, and the old lady giving no sign of life, she was placed in her coffin and interred.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

I.
The New Year comes on his charger bold,
The youngest courser of time;
Oh, may he be laden with hopes and gold
For Christians, in every clime!
But most of bliss may he bring to this,
In the speed of his young career,
That with love in his face and joy in his race,
We may call him a happy year!

II.
A happy year to the family wide,
Of all our human kind;
Galloping on with pleasure before,
And scattering cares behind;
Leaping o'er all the hedges of pain,
That have grown round the human heart,
And striking the light of love again
From every flinty part!

III.
A happy year for wanderers wild
That over the world may roam,
And the happiest year that ever was dear,
Bless every English home!
The city house and the rural farm,
The thronged and lonely spot,
And shed its light from the palace bright,
Into the lowly cot!

IV.
We would not have for the silken rich
One wild woe to deplore,
But happiness, in her gayest dress,
Should call at every door;
Leaving her card at castle yard,
At mansion, and at court,
With a generous glee, and a heart all free,
And a spirit winged for sport.

V.
And then we would have the rich go forth,
Leading her by the hand
To every place of Poverty
In all the pining land.
Oh! 'tis they who are bound, where want is found,
To go with their guest of Mirth,
And beg her to smile a blessed smile
On every poor man's hearth.

VI.
Fire when coals are gone,
Food when money is spent,
A garment stout, with the frost fenced out,
And clothes where the rags are rent!
A sympathy kind for the stricken mind,
Soothing for sorrows long!
A blessing low o'er the poor man's woe,
And a chime with the poor man's song!

VII.
So should Power and Wealth
Be harbingers of cheer,
And Charity's lure be the home of the poor,
At dawn of a Happy Year.
Then let Happiness go
Home at the rich man's call,
Back from relieved and brightened woe,
Into the princely hall!

VIII.
Then let her revel and dance,
Till all the blood flow free,
In every vein of the gorgeous train
That own nobility!
Then in the dazzling whirl,
Then in the maddening cheer,
May holier thoughts come in to calm
The rich man's "Happy Year!"

IX.
A happy year to all,
Old and stern and sage,
Young, and flighty and wild,
Blessings for every age!
Happiness interchanged,
For this let brotherhood strive,
Then men will have smiles for every month
That shall brighten Forty-five!

X.
The New Year comes on his charger bold,
The youngest courser of time!
Oh, may he be laden with hopes and gold
For Christians, in every clime!
But most of bliss may he bring to this,
In the speed of his young career,
That with love in his face and joy in his race,
We may call him a happy year!

THE ACT TO SIMPLIFY THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY.—There are four-teen short clauses in this act, which will take effect from Tuesday next, the 31st inst. In future, deeds not to "indented" at the top, as they have been from time immemorial. The following is the provision on the subject:—Section 11. "That it shall not be necessary in any case to have a deed indented; and that any person not being a party to any deed, may take an immediate benefit under it, in the same manner as he might under a deed poll." By another clause, it is provided, "That the *bona fide* payment to and the receipt of any person to whom any money shall be payable upon any express or implied trust, or for any limited purpose, or of the survivors or survivor of two or more mortgagors, or holders, or the executors or administrators of such survivor, or their or his assigns, shall effectually discharge the person paying the same from seeing to the application, or being answerable for the misapplication thereof, unless the contrary shall be expressly declared by the instrument creating the trust or security."

CHRISTMAS FAIR IN LONDON.—So fine a show of poultry, game, and meat has not been seen at Christmas for many years as was on Monday exhibited in the markets and at the retail dealers. The supply of cattle at Smithfield market on Monday week was larger and finer than the salesmen had had for twenty years, but in consequence of the then "muggy" state of the weather, it was, in every sense, a very dull market. Between that and the next sale day, on Friday, the weather had entirely changed, and the beasts went off at good prices, the butchers being ready buyers for their Christmas stock. The appearance of the frost still continuing, led to a very large supply being sent to the markets on Monday. In Leadenhall market there was an excellent show of poultry, especially turkeys and geese, the former fetching from 7*s.* 6*d.* to 30*s.* for very large ones, and geese averaging 6*s.* to 8*s.* There were also a great number of hares. The meat generally appeared of fine quality, and sirloins were sold at 9*d.* and 10*d.* per lb. Newgate market was very well supplied, and so was Hungerford, where, perhaps, the prices were a shade lower. In Hungerford the geese were piled up outside some of the shops, and good ones could be bought for 6*s.* or 7*s.* Most of the principal butchers at the West-end had very large shows of meat. The coaches were loaded for several days with the good things for Christmas festivity, especially from Norfolk and Suffolk.

EVERY BODY'S COLUMN.

EVENING MELODIES.—III.

Hush! 'tis an angel's name,
That word you almost breath'd!
Talk ye of those whom Fame
Hath deathless chaplets wreath'd:
Of the monarch, who hath made
Our love her brightest crown;
Of the conqueror, who hath laid
His sword in triumph down;
Of the statesman, sworn to seek,
In all, his country's bliss;
These were fit things to speak,
In a joyous hour like this!

But not of her laid low,
The fair one past away!
There is One name, we know,
We must not lightly say:
And in hours when mirth and song
Are every moment new,

Would it not come of wrong
To name His angels too?
They have no ill to lure,
No cares to dim their brow;
Hush! they are far too pure
For us to speak of now!
Yet when there's no one here,
When song and mirth are o'er,
And if Heaven's not more near,
We feel its nearness more;
When humble thoughts subside,
And earthly hopes are still'd,
And we only wish to do,
And be what He hath willed;
Ye may name her softly then!
And when your musings cease,
Go ye forth better men,
For that holy hour of peace!

R. E. S.

THE COLDEST DAY OF THE WINTER.

Mr. Murphy, the weather prophet, predicts that Wednesday, the 6th January, will be the coldest day of the season. He does not agree with M. Arago as to the probable severity and duration of the winter.

SIR ASTLEY COOPER'S CHILBLAIN LINIMENT.

Take of camphorated spirit of wine one ounce; solution of the subacetate of lead half an ounce. Mix, and apply in the usual way.

STRANGE EFFECTS OF COLD.

A young American, who is travelling in Europe, gravely announces, in a letter, that Professor Van Grusselbach, of Stockholm, has brought to a state of perfection the art of producing a torpor in the system by the application of cold, of degrees of intensity proceeding from less to greater, so as to cause the human body to become perfectly torpid, in which state it may remain for 100 or 1000 years, and then be awakened to a new existence.

A MONSTER ELECTRICAL MACHINE.

A hydro-electric machine of the most extraordinary and unprecedented power is now being constructed for the United States. It will be able to produce a spark of 36 inches, to coat 3500 feet of metallic surface, in a battery of 48 Leyden jars, of two feet high by 10 inches in diameter. This shock would kill 1000 men in an instant, if it were passed through such a chain! The name of this Leviathan machine is to be the "Benjamin Franklin." [Brother Jonathan is not easily alarmed, but such a machine as this seems calculated to give him a shock.]

THE FATTENING OF GESE.

At the recent sitting of the Paris Academy of Sciences, M. Percez made a communication upon some various experiments he had made for the fattening of geese. A hundred modes of fattening geese have been conceived, but most of those who have engaged in the speculation have been of opinion that it was necessary the food should contain the elements of fat to be eliminated by the goose in the process of digestion. M. Percez is of a different opinion. He contends that it is of no consequence whether the food be of the kind alluded to or not, as the goose, he says, forms in the process of the digestion fat from any food, if it contain a certain portion of azote.

PRINCE ALBERT AT COLLEGE.

In a recently published work, which contains some particulars of the college life of Prince Albert, the writer says that while the Prince was at the University of Bonn, he was particularly distinguished from all other students of the same rank for the salutary habit of early rising, one which he had uniformly persevered in from his boyhood. The Prince generally rose about half-past five o'clock in the morning, and never prolonged his repose after six. From that hour up to seven in the evening, he assiduously devoted his whole time to his studies, with the exception of an interval of three hours, which he allowed himself for dinner and recreation. At seven he usually went out, and paid visits to those individuals or families who were honoured with his acquaintance.

A QUESTION ABOUT POSTAGE STAMPS.

Why is a postage stamp like a naughty school-boy? Because he is licked and put in the corner, to make him stick to his letters.

EXPERIMENTS IN CHEMISTRY.

Potato is nothing but starch; but a piece of potato dropped into a glass of grog would not have the effect of stiffening it.

ON LIFE, SLEEP, AND DEATH.

M. Raphael de Zetof, of St. Petersburg, lately presented a memoir on this subject, in which he indicates a method to prevent burying a person prematurely. As soon as all hopes are lost, the corpse must be placed in a glass coffin; the cover being fixed on by a substance through which the air can penetrate, an opening must be made at each extremity, so as to permit galvanism to be employed, and it is only some time after doing this that the body ought to be buried.

A VOICE FROM THE BAKERHOUSE.

A good baker should grow his own mutton. This is easily done by placing your customers' legs in a row, according to sizes. Having purchased the smallest leg you can find, change it for one of the bakings which is a little larger; that again should take the place of the next bulkier joint, and so on until you arrive at the largest. You can then walk off with your leg. A good crop of baked taters may be got by digging one out of each customer's dish.—*Punch*.

CHRISTMAS DAY.—THE NATIVITY.

The place of nativity at Bethlehem is many feet below ground, where massy silver lamps are kept constantly illuminated. The precise place where the Son of God appeared in obscurity is marked by a star of marble, encircled with an inscription, and the manger where he was cradled in obscurity is scooped in an adjoining rock, that originally belonged to "an inn."—*Dr. Rae Wilson's Travels in the East*.

WORTHY OF ATTENTION.

Advice to persons about to marry.—Don't.

THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION.

A very curious case has been published of an operation for the cure of consumption, by the perforation of the cavity of the lung through the walls of the chest. It consists in making an opening between the ribs into the cavity which forms in the lung during the latter stages of consumption. The immediate effects of the operation (which requires only a few seconds for its performance, and which causes but slight pain) in the case in question was the diminution of the frequency of the patient's pulse, which fell in 24 hours from 120 to 68; freedom of respiration, which had been a very distressing symptom; loss of cough and expectoration, both of which had been very severe. This operation, which has established the possibility of curing this hitherto fatal disease, appears to have been completely successful; the report of the condition of the patient a month after its performance being, that he was rapidly regaining his flesh and strength.

THE KINGDOM OF BOKHARA.

The Baron de Bode has recently translated the Russian work of Khanikoff, in which some interesting particulars are mentioned of Bokhara. The government of Bokhara is absolute, or only limited by the Koran and the commentaries upon it. The administration is in the hands of the clergy. M. Khanikoff calculates that there are nearly 200 colleges for youth in the Khanat, attended by from 15,000 to 16,000 students. In all of them, however, the education is almost exclusively theological. The number of elementary schools, where children are taught to read and write, is said to be ten times as great, and to be attended by from 150,000 to 160,000 children, or nearly one-sixteenth of the whole population.

EXTRAORDINARY LONGEVITY.

There is at present a man at work on the Hungerford Bridge who, as a boy, witnessed the laying of its first stone. He is in possession of all his faculties.

A ROYAL BARON.

The baron of beef which was served at the Royal table, at Windsor, on Christmas Day, was a portion of an extraordinary Scotch ox, fed by the Archbishop of York, at Nuneham, Oxfordshire. It was of the enormous weight of 179 pounds, and measured 3 feet 6 inches in length, and 2 feet 11 inches in width.

HINT TO LOVERS OF FLOWERS.

A most beautiful and easily-attained show of evergreens in winter may be had by a very simple plan, which has been found to answer remarkably well on a small scale. If geranium leaves (branches?) are taken from healthy and luxuriant trees, just before the winter sets in, cut as for slips, and immersed in soap and water, they will, after drooping for a few days, shed their leaves, put forth fresh ones, and continue in the finest vigour all the winter. By placing a number of bottles thus filled in flower-baskets, with moss to conceal the bottles, a show of evergreens is easily ensured for a whole season. They require no fresh water.

LOED NELSON AS A POLITICAL ECONOMIST.

It will probably be news to some persons to know that Lord Nelson employed his leisure hours in statistics; but it appears from his Despatches and Letters that he once drew up an account of the earnings and expenses of a labourer in Norfolk with a wife and three children, supposing that he is not to be one day kept from labour in the whole year, and he proved that from the wages then paid the earnings were for food not quite twice as a day for each person, "and to drink nothing but water, for beer our poor labourers never taste, unless they are tempted, which is too often the case, to go to the ale-house." The same kindly consideration for the working man, whether afloat or ashore, is discernible in Nelson's treatment of the Norfolk labourers, which beamed through his pitying warning to a newly-appointed purser—"Now, mind, sir, I will not have my poor fellows stunted."

ABSENTEES.

BURGLARY IN WARWICKSHIRE.—A burglary of a very daring character was committed during the night of Tuesday last, in the residence of Miss Chambers of Kidway, near Kington, on the borders of Warwickshire and Worcestershire. The villains, who were three in number, with blackened faces and armed with pistols, having made a forcible entrance into the house, two of them proceeded to Miss Chambers's apartment, whilst the third kept watch at the stair-door leading to the apartment of the servants, who were disturbed, and whose brains he threatened to blow out if they made any noise. The same threat was made to Miss Chambers by the two who entered the room; they then proceeded to rifle the house, and carried off cash, plate, and other property to a considerable amount.

HORRIBLE OCCURRENCE.—On Saturday week the wife of a person named James Moffat, who is a laborer on the farm of Inglethorpe, in the parish of Hove, near Doncaster, went to the barn where she keeps a quarter of a roe deer, having under a child from three to four years of age, and an infant, two months old, in the cradle. During her absence a beast entered the dwelling when the child left with the infant ran out. Its cry soon attracted the notice of the person to whom the cow belonged, who immediately made towards it; and she found the sow shaking and tearing the little innocent. No time was lost in rescuing the infant from the savage beast, but before this could be done, its cheeks, neck, and arms were badly lacerated. A medical gentleman thought the little one would not long survive; but it is still living, though in a very precarious state.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—On Wednesday (Christmas-day) morning, about half past three o'clock, a fire was discovered by the police-constable on the beat, razing in the extensive workshops belonging to Mr. Michael Mahoney, calender-maker, 31, High-street, Hoxton Old Town. Information of the occurrence was without delay furnished to the several engine stations, and in a very short space of time five brigade engines and the West of England were on the spot. The one from Whitecross-street and another from Jefferys-square, under the direction of Mr. Crookland, were speedily got to work; and an abundant supply of water from the mains of the New River Company being readily furnished, the fire was confined to the building in which it originated. Before it was extinguished, however, the whole of the workshops, forty feet long by sixteen broad, with the contents and roof, were destroyed. Fortunately, the building was detached, or the damage would have been still more serious, from the great body of fire in the building, and the great heat to the walls during the fire. The premises are insured in the West of England office. The origin of the fire is unknown.

CORN—**HARVESTING** (relay).—Owing to the thick weather and contrary winds, we cannot be very much supplied with all descriptions of grain, consequently, very little business is done in any article. To-day scarcely any English wheat was on hand, and the few sales effected in it were at prices fully equal to those obtained on Monday. In the foreign market a fair business was doing, at late rates. There were a few runs of barley on sale, by land carriage samples, and which were held at full prices. The trade, however, was by no means brisk. Scarcely any oats at market; those, as well as beans and peas, were sold at low values.

ARRIVALS.—English wheat, 267; barley, 1800; oats, 149 quarters. Irish wheat, —; barley, —; oats, —; quarters. Foreign: wheat, —; barley, —; oats, —; quarters. Flour, 2000 sacks. Malt, 2000 quarters.

PRICES.—Wheat, Essex and Kent, red, 35s to 47s; white ditto, 44s to 54s; Norfolk and Suffolk, red, 35s to 42s; ditto, white, 45s to 47s; 77c, 37s to 38s; grinding barley, 27s to 32s; dishing, 28s to 35s; malting ditto, 35s to 40s. Lincoln and Norfolk malt, 41s to 42s; brown, 40s to 46s; pale, 45s to 50s. Oats, 25s to 30s. Chevalier, 6s; Yorkshire and Lincolnshire feed oats, 22s to 23s; potatoe ditto, 24s to 25s; Troughal and Colblack, 21s to 22s; ditto, white, 22s to 23s; chick beans, new, 35s to 37s; ditto, old, 40s to 42; grey pea, 35s to 37s; maple, 35s to 37s; white, 35s to 35s; bolvers, 34s to 40s, per quarter. Town made flour, 45s to —; Suffolk, Stockton, and Yorkshire, 35s to 35s, per 35 lb. Foreign.—Fine wheat, 35s to 54s; Dantzig, red, 40s to 47s; white, 42s to 49s. In Bond.—Barley, 27s to 27s; oats, 17s to 18s; ditto, feed, 15s to 17s; beans, 21s to 25s; peas, 23s to 30s, per quarter. Flour, Canadian, 21s. o —; Baltic, 20s to —, per barrel.

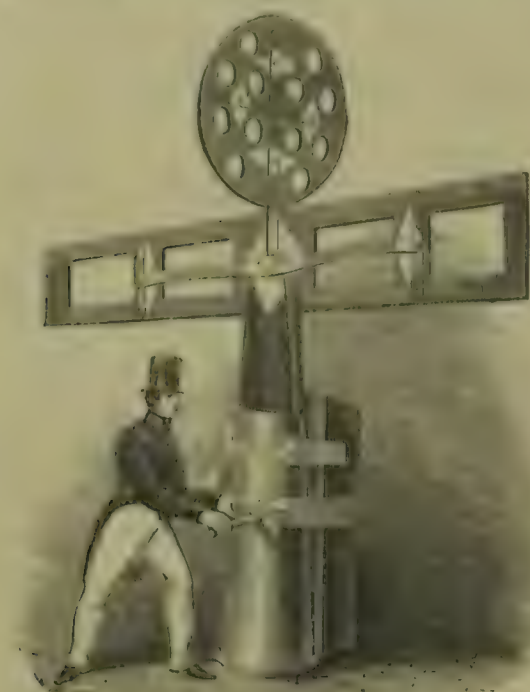
At Genoa, John Thomas Humphreys, Esq., a Deputy-Commissary-General of her Majesty's Forces.—At his residence, at Emsworth, Lady Urania Annabella Walpole, eldest daughter of the second and sister of the present Earl of Portsmouth, aged 75.—At Funchal, Balears, Lady Henderson Gordon, wife of Admiral Sir Philip Henderson (now deceased), a Daughter.—At Florence, Ann, widow of the late Peter Aumer, Esq.—Major General Joseph Nesbitt, of the Bengal Army, aged 65.—In Greenwell Hospital, in the 61st year of his age, Captain Thomas Huxford, Royal Navy.—William Tyler, the second son of Dr. Tyler M.D.—At Effra Lodge, Brixton, Sarah, relict of the late Rev. John Manley Wood, in the 61st year of her age.—In Park street, Grosvenor-square, Anna F. Philips, eldest daughter of Sir Charles William Blount, aged 79.—In the 74th year of her age, George Woodfall, Esq., of Great Deal's yard, Westminster.—Mrs. Elizabeth Sturt of Exeter, Esq. aged 70.—Lady Campbell, relict of Major-General Sir Neil Campbell, at No. 6, Mortimer street, Cavendish square, aged 89.—Baroness, widow of the 1st Lord John Philipot Curran, some time Master of the Rolls in Ireland.—At E. ch. 10, Ed. Howard, youngest son of Robert Kitherton, Esq.

RAILWAY SIGNALS.



JUNCTION OF THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY WITH THE LONDON BRANCH.

We resume the important subject of Railway Signals, by an exhibition of those in use on the Great Western Railway. They consist of—



JUNCTION SIGNAL POST.

I. Line signals. These are divided into day and night signals.

1. Day: The line signals, during day, are performed by the arms of the policeman or servants in attendance. The signal "All Right"



STATION SIGNAL "ALL RIGHT."

consists in holding the right arm in a horizontal position, pointing across the line of rails on which the train is proceeding. See our engraving. The Caution signal to "Slacken Speed" is shown by the

policeman facing the approaching train: one arm being held straight up as high as he can. See cut. The Danger signal "To Stop" is shown by the policeman facing the approaching train, and holding both arms straight up as high as he can.

2. Night: The line signals during night are given by means of coloured lights. To make the announcement "All Right" to an approaching train, the white light of a lamp is held steadily facing it, and as it passes by, the lamp is moved round, so that the light may continue to fall upon the engine. Great care is taken to keep the light steady, in order that it may not be mistaken for any other signal. The Caution signal "to Slacken Speed," is indicated in a similar manner, by the green glass of the lamp being turned on and shown as before mentioned. The Danger signal "to Stop," is shown in the same way, by the red glass of the lamp being turned on. In the absence of a red light, the violent waving of a light horizontally indicates danger.

The carriages are provided with red and green lamps; the red ones are placed at the rear of the carriages, and can only be seen by persons standing behind the train. The green ones are placed in front: they consequently denote the approach of a train. Locomotive engines moving without a train show the same lights.

II. STATION, TUNNEL, AND GATE SIGNALS. 1. Day. The signal "All Right" is indicated by a round board, placed on the top of a high mast, and having its face turned to the line. The holes pierced in it are merely for the purpose of making it more clearly distinguishable at a distance. Our small cut, in the first column, shows its form. The "Caution" signal, "to Slacken Speed," is shown by a Green Painted Board, pointing from the rails on the left-hand side of the train. The tall cut, in the second column, shows it in operation. The signal "To Stop" is shown by a cross-bar, placed beneath the round board before mentioned, and at right angles with it, so that in working it, when the cross bar is visible, the round board having only its edge towards the driver, is invisible. The same signal is also made by a red painted board pointing to the rails.

2. Night: The signal "All Right" is shown by a White lamp fixed on a staff in some place sufficiently conspicuous to be easily seen by an approaching train. The "Caution" signal to "Slacken Speed," is indicated by a Green Lamp, shown in the same way. The "Danger" signal "To Stop," is indicated by a Red Lamp shown in the same way.

III. JUNCTION SIGNALS.—These are of immense importance. A moment's inattention to them, on the passage of a couple of trains, might involve them both in common ruin. Perhaps this fearful truth is nowhere more strongly exemplified than at the point on which the West London Branch crosses the Great Western Railway. The cut at the head of this article exhibits the junction of these two lines, and it will be seen that they meet at right angles, and in fact cross each other in "point blank" directions. To prevent collisions, the following signals have been contrived; and up to the present time

they have, in spite of their very limited range, answered extremely well. Two signal-posts of great size, and conspicuous for their markings and colour, have been placed on the left of the up line, in the angle formed by the junction of the two lines. One of these posts—a very tall one—is devoted to the use of the Great Western Line; and the other—a short one—to the use of the West London. The mode of giving the signals is the same in principle as those already described, but, in their application, they are so arranged that the one is made to work relatively with the other. Thus, when the full face of the cross bar of the branch post is turned full on the line, giving warning "To Stop," the position of the round board above it gives signal of "All Clear" to the main line, and so on. Meantime the tall post makes its own signal of "All Clear" to the main line, and "Stop" to the branch one. At night these signals are made by lights.

In constructing a signal-post, it is of importance that it should be made of materials strong enough to be beyond the reach of ordinary accidents, and also, that its weight should not be so great as to impede its motion. These conditions are happily combined in the example under consideration. The taller ones are formed of sound pine masts, clamped in some places with iron, and shod with suitable materials to protect them against wet and damp. The turning apparatus consists either of a ball movement, or a swivel, and a simple handle, or compound lever, as the case may require. When a post has been turned to give a signal, it is held in its position by one of a series of hooks which lay hold of it in succession, as the several turns are completed. The notches on the sides of the post enable the policeman on duty to examine it from time to time, with a view to necessary repairs. The smaller posts are formed of lighter materials, but more gaudily painted than the larger ones.

In the management of the signal-men, a strict discipline is observed. On entering the service, they give a bond to "observe and obey" the company's regulations; and in all cases of failure, prompt punishment or dismissal follows. Occasional rewards for extraordinary services might be given with advantage.

It will be seen that this system of signals is very simple, and so far to be commended; but the success which has attended its use we attribute rather to the monotonous character of the hitherto direct and uniform traffic of the Great Western, than to any great excellence in the signals themselves. We are not going to find fault, but we may prove the truth of our opinion by remarking, that the signals apply to the up and down lines simultaneously, and in no respect possess the power of speaking to the trains or engines of a single pair of rails; neither is any caution signal made at the West London Junction—an economy which we deem to be most unwise.

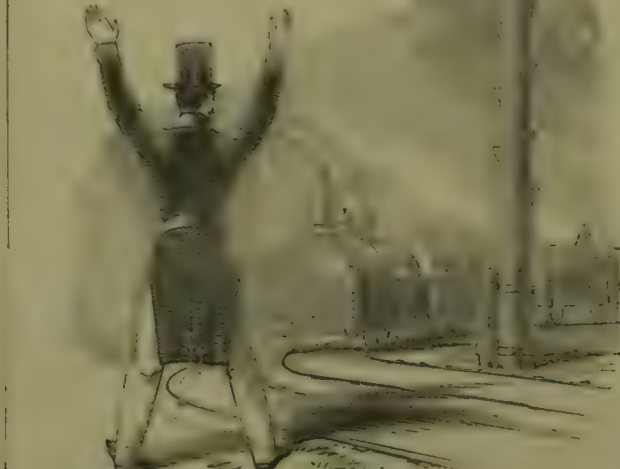
The Magnetic Telegraph at work between the London and Slough stations, although admirably adapted for the entire signal service of the line, is only used for private purposes.



LINE SIGNAL "ALL RIGHT."



LINE SIGNALS "CAUTION."



LINE SIGNALS "STOP."



GREAT SKIFF RACE, AT NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE THAMES AND TYNE.

On Wednesday, the 18th, a grand skiff match for £150, was rowed between Coombes, the celebrated Thames waterman, and Henry Clasper, of Derwent Haugh, who enjoys equal celebrity among the watermen of the Tyne. As might be expected, from the amount of the stakes, and the importance of the race—the championship of the Thames and Tyne depending on it—the contest drew together a great concourse of spectators; and, as the time of starting drew near, every available place was occupied, the bridge and each side of the river as far as the eye could reach being densely crowded. The river, too, was unusually animated; craft of all descriptions rowed leisurely about, while a host of steamers filled with company were prepared to accompany the competitors, so that a portion of the spectators witnessed the race from the beginning to the end. The weather, though fair, was gloomy, and about half-past ten o'clock, Coombes entered his skiff, and soon after Clasper (who had been on board the Laurel steamer, which was engaged by the umpires, referees, &c.) followed him, and was loudly cheered as he entered his boat.

Both men having made ready, rowed gently down the river and through the bridge, by which their neat and tiny skiffs, though each differing considerably in their structure, were seen to great advantage and excited general admiration; that of Coombes seemed to be of first-rate finish and modelled peculiar to those connected with the Thames; while Clasper's formed the *beau ideal* of his four oared gig the Five Brothers. Both boats were built expressly for the occasion—the London one being constructed of white wood by Messrs. Cowndes and Wintzell, of Lambeth and weighed 43lbs.; and that of Newcastle, of mahogany, by Clasper himself, but was 6lb. heavier. The betting at starting was in favour of Coombes, and varied from 6 to 4 to 3 to 1; and in many instances was freely taken.

On the skiffs returning up the river, they kept together; and on passing the bridge, the channel being completely clear, away they went in excellent style, amidst the cheers of the immense multitude; but before they had proceeded many yards, Clasper fouled his oars, by which his opponent gained an advantage, and led by a full boat's length. Clasper, however, having speedily recovered himself, again "bent his oar to the stroke," but unfortunately on reaching the Skinners' Burn he ran foul of a keel, when Coombes, by the accident, shot several yards ahead. After Clasper cleared, he again plied his oars, and from this point up to Redheugh seemed to gain upon his adversary until within four boats' length; but it soon became apparent that he could not win, for in making two or three attempts to reach his opponent, he failed, and Coombes ultimately came in a winner by six lengths or more.

After the race, a protest was made against Coombes receiving the stakes, in consequence of one of Coombes's friends crying out to him that he was pulling his skiff on shore, and waving at the same time with his hand to him the proper course to take. A meeting was held on the subject, and several witnesses were examined; after which the referee gave his decision the following morning, which was "that Coombes was entitled to the stakes," upon which they were immediately given up to him.

Throughout the race, Clasper's conduct was worthy of the highest commendation; not only did he produce, by his own skill and industry, a beautiful and well-designed skiff, which would do credit to any professional boat builder, but throughout the race he contended manfully for the prize. It is stated in the *Newcastle Journal* (whence these details are abridged), that a match is talked of between Clasper and Newell, another London waterman.

ENGLISH THEATRICALS AT PARIS.—THE SALLE VENTADOR.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The English company has now played "Othello," "Hamlet," and "Virginus." The performers are well known to the London public, and to enter upon a critique of their acting would in this instance be particularly misplaced. Macready's *Hamlet*, *Othello*, and *Virginus* are little altered by the year he has spent in America; and all have been lauded by friends, assailed by foes, and appreciated by true critics, for many years past. Something of the same sort may be said of Miss Faucit's *Desdemona* and *Virginia*; her *Ophelia* is new to the London public as well as to the Parisian. It is a remarkable performance. Miss Faucit does not, of course, sing the music with the finish of a *prima donna*—Shakespeare never intended that it should be so sung. The snatches of tunes are the components of tragic and of lyric passion, and so Miss Faucit used rather than executed them. But her voice is sweet and plaintive, and fully serves her to do what she requires. For the acting, nothing more true or tender has been given on the stage since the highest triumphs of Miss O'Neill—accordingly, though many heartily applauded, more heartily wept. A critic in the *Charivari* gives us the best account of her powers, in saying that it would be impossible to produce effect with less effort; and this is, beyond all doubt, the perfection of art.

A foreign audience in the mass are only judges of the right and wrong, the interest for the good and against the bad characters of a drama. The sufferings therefore which prompt the stern justice of *Othello*, the conscience which is the indecision of *Hamlet*, are beyond their appreciation. They take part against the Moor instead of sympathising with him; and they call Hamlet deficient in action, because they perceive the absence of physical events, and are not aware of the presence of mental ones. It is this blunder which makes Victor Hugo think his own melodramas imitations of Shakespeare. In all instances, therefore, in which the pantomimic story could excite them, the French audience responded freely and energetically; in many parts, they fairly took the actors' part in trust, and rewarded them generously. But in "Virginus" all is marked and clear. The right and wrong are there of a ballet, every accent being perfectly visible as well as audible. Here, therefore, the enthusiasm became enforced and spontaneous. The audience applauded to relieve themselves, and to please the actor or satisfy conviction. All was hearty from one end of the house to the other, and it may fairly be said, that every character in the piece earned his share of the respect shown to the performance. Inspired by the effort, Macready acted in his very first style, and has renewed the remembrance of his former successes, and fixed them in the hearts of many of those best worth winning opinions from. Rachel, Alexandre Dumas, and many others of high rank in the world of art; the Dukes

of Nemours and Montpensier, and others lofty in rank; have had pleasure in showing such feelings.

The Salle itself is perhaps the most beautiful in the world. The rich gilding upon a white ground, relieved by the deep crimson velvet, which gives the only colour used in the theatre, places the splendid audience in the richest possible framework, and the boxes receding as they grow higher, and free from all division, so as to show every person as in the section of an amphitheatre. After a *coup d'œil* of quite unequalled magnificence, nothing can give a greater contrast to the quiet, exclusive, parted-off style of the Italian Opera in London.

The subject of our illustration is the last scene of *Othello*. The public are all anxious for "Macbeth," with the splendid service which will, it is to be hoped, be effectually presented them. This play and "Werner" are the remaining dramas to be offered the subscription of twelve nights, a very little beyond which is likely to be allowed, from the active opposition of the manager of the Académie, M. Leon Pillet.

FASHIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR.



FASHIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES.

RIGHT HAND FIGURE.—A lace cap. A velvet cloak, trimmed with swans-down. A lace dress.

LEFT HAND FIGURE.—A satin hat. A satin cloak, trimmed with narrow velvet ribbon.

RIGHT HAND HALF-LENGTH FIGURE.—A coiffure, composed of gold net and tassels. A satin dress trimmed with black lace, having two volans of the same round the skirt.

LEFT HAND HALF-LENGTH FIGURE.—A satin hat, trimmed with black lace. A camelion silk dress, with spencer corsege.

MODES DE PARIS.

At no period have ladies' fashions been more graceful than at present; borrowing from the costumes adopted at the time of Louis XIII., XIV., and XV., whatever was elegant and commodious, and having established general forms, which are varied only by the accessories and ornaments; nothing can be more graceful or rational than the corseges, which display the full length of the bust; or the tight sleeves, that so well show off the arm; or the fulness and length of the skirts, which add to the natural grace of an élégante. It is therefore much to be desired that they will long continue in the same course, and avoid those follies to which they so frequently tend.



FASHIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

In acquitting myself of the imposed task of furnishing to the readers of your journal some monthly description of Parisian fashions, I shall have no remarkable changes to point out in essentials, but only those of the accessories and ornaments, which are as changeable as the others are fixed.

MANTELES, PELISSES, BALL DRESSES, &c., are remarked for the simplicity of the forms and the elegance of the ornaments. Velvet is still much used for the ornament of promenade and visiting dresses; it is adapted for the skirts of dresses—three biases of which are placed round, with a small space between each.

PELISSES are ornamented all down the front, with very narrow velvet ribbon, placed so as to imitate brandebourgs, fastened on each side with buttons, underneath which are concealed hooks and eyes, which serve to fasten the skirt. Pelisse-dresses, ornamented in this style, usually have doublet flaps of velvet, and also facings of velvet to the corsege. It is evident that velvet and passementerie are still the principal materials for the trimmings of dresses; but, as passementerie has of late been so universally introduced, it must be adopted with great circumspection.

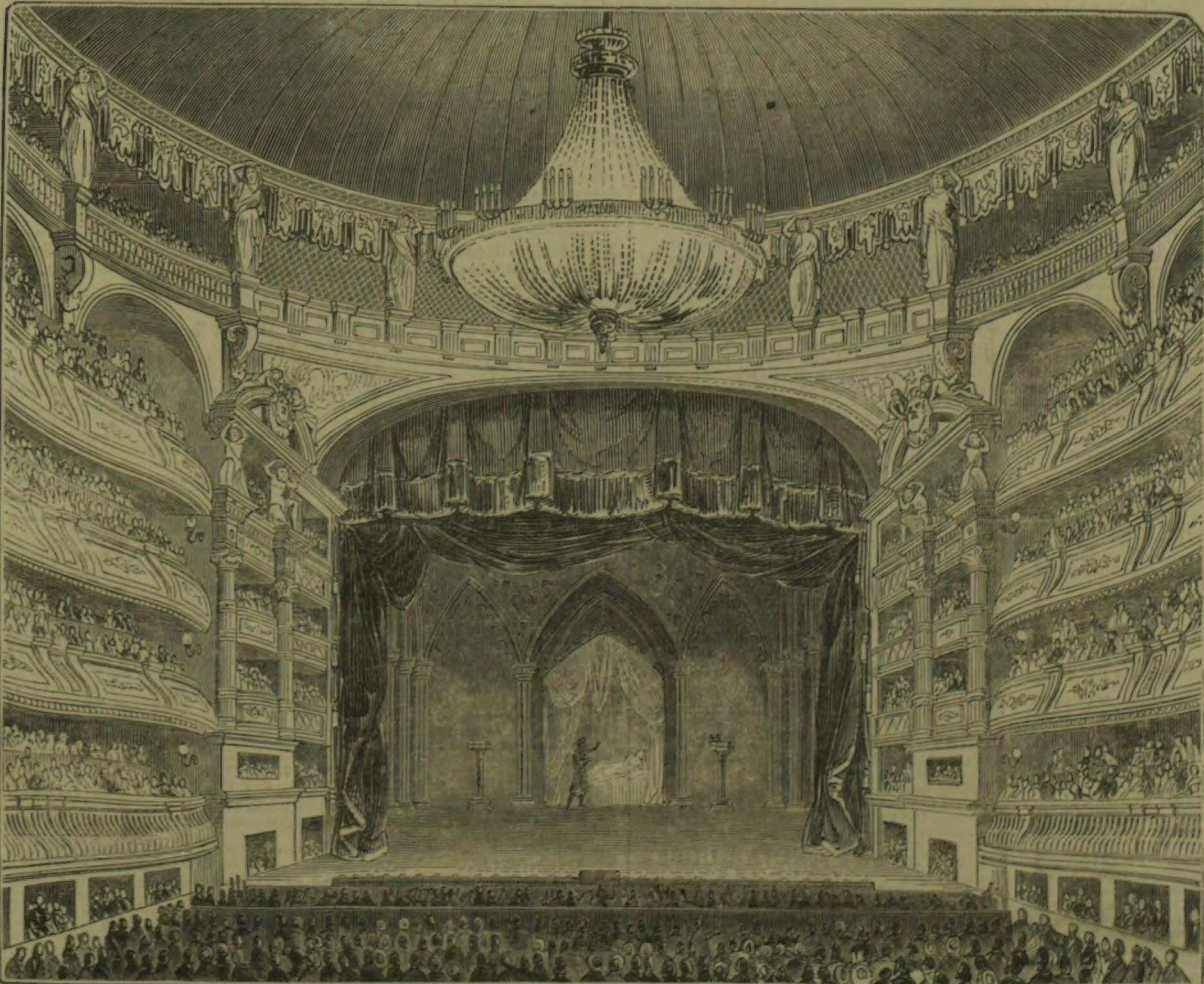
FRINGES are indiscriminately employed, both for morning and evening dresses, with this difference, those for the first are close and heavy, whilst the latter are light, and a little craped.

Some elegant MANTILLES for evening wear are made of light coloured satin and they are beautifully embroidered with white roses slightly shaded with the same colour as the Mantille; they are trimmed with a handsome fringe. Deep volans, of black or white lace are considered quite in good taste this year; two thirds and frequently three fourths of the skirts of dresses are occupied with these elegant ornaments.

Ball dresses are still made with double skirts; the upper of crape or tulle, and the under of satin; they are usually looped up with bouquets of delicate flowers. There is scarcely any alteration in the shape of HATS; they are low and close for *negligé*, and more open for a toilette more *recherché*.

HATS for morning wear are frequently made of black velvet covered with black lace; and for carriage, of coloured satin covered with white lace; they are ornamented inside the brims with a bow of ribbon or a flower surrounded with tulle.

FRUIT-BORDS of velvet are very fashionable for full toilette; they are frequently ornamented with a row of white beads on the edge of the brim, and another on the innermost of the forehead.



ENGLISH THEATRICALS AT PARIS.—THE SALLE VENTADOR.

THE BEST ALMANACK FOR 1846.

The head of a colossal statue, to be called Bavaria, was lately cast at Munich. An idea may be formed of the enormous dimensions of this statue from the fact, that 25 persons were able to place themselves in the head.

A correspondent writes from Rome, that never before were there so many strangers in that city. There are said to be 4000 English families; but this must be an exaggeration. The rents of houses and apartments are up at an enormous height.

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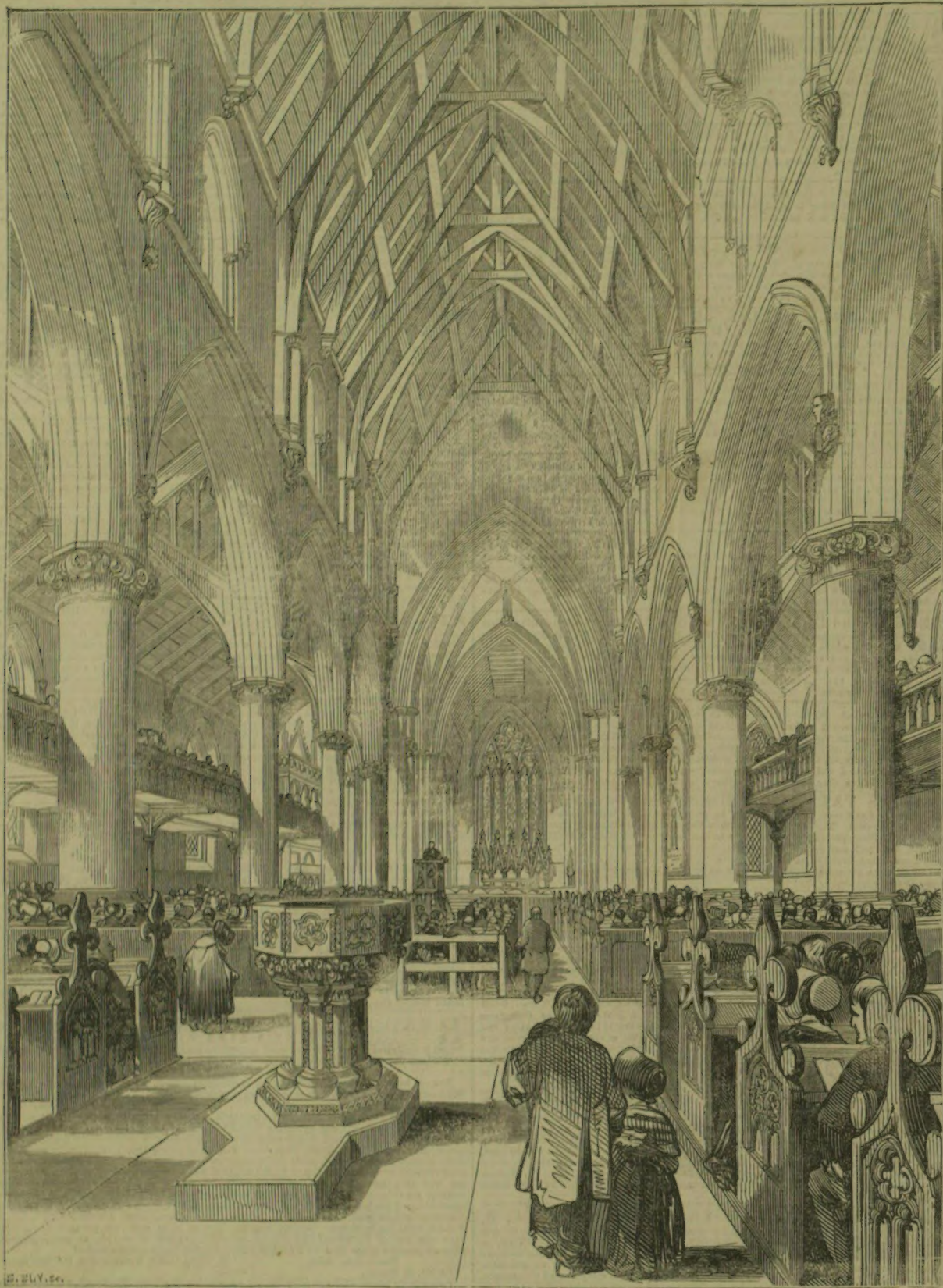
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INTERIOR OF ST. GILES'S CHURCH, CAMBERWELL.

We have already illustrated this magnificent specimen of church building, in Numbers 90 and 133 of our journal. In the latter is described the ceremony of the consecration of the church, on the 21st ult., with some details of the interior, more especially of the east end of the structure. The present engraving represents nearly the whole of the interior, from the west end, showing the open timber roof, the general arrangement of the choir, nave, and aisles; the latter distinguished by the introduction of galleries. The sculptural embellishments, as the capitals of the columns, &c., are in strict conformity with the style of the edifice—the Decorated. The octagonal font, in the foreground of our view, is very beautiful; the moulding and emblematic embellishment are much admired.

In the account in No. 133 is an error of description, which we are anxious to rectify. It is there stated that "the carvings" were executed by Mr. Pratt's patent machine; whereas, the work done by this admirable mechanism was the ornamental panelling and fleur-de-lis terminations of the stall ends, boldly delineated by our artist. Mr. Pratt's machine was also used in working the arches, tracery, and other corresponding parts in the organ-case, the pulpit, reading-desk, and altar-rail chairs. Thus far the tracery. The carving was executed by hand; the designs for both being furnished by the architects, Messrs. Scott and Moffatt. In our engraving of the consecration, the altar-table is shown without the rich velvet embroidered cloth with which it is usually covered, and which hangs as drapery, after the ancient manner. We also omitted to mention that the organ, which is extremely powerful, was built by Bishop.

We have already intimated the remarkably fine execution of the windows, the work of Messrs. Ward and Nixon. They, perhaps, present the finest specimen of glass-painting and scriptural design lately executed in this country, where the art is no longer a "lost" one. The details of these masterly performances may, therefore, be acceptable.

The window occupying the east end of the chancel contains a rich and elaborate specimen of painted glass, presented by the gentlemen of the parish. As its position over the altar has been thought to require that it should be executed in the highest, and therefore most costly, style of art, and as the sums hitherto contributed are inadequate to the completion of the whole in that manner, it has been judged best to confine the undertaking for the present to the tracery lights in the head of the window, and the principal of the five lights below, leaving the four remaining, or lateral lights, filled merely with white glass, until the requisite funds be obtained. Even the principal of the lower lights was unfortunately not finished at the time of the consecration, though likely, it is hoped, to be completed in a few weeks; and its imperfect and fragmentary appearance detracted considerably from the effect of the whole. It is intended to contain five circles in a perpendicular series, united by a Mosaic ground, and including representations of the Nativity, Temptation, Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension, of Christ, with several minor subjects, partly historical and partly allegorical, in illustration of these principal ones. The Ascension, which is in the highest of the circles, was the only one not then put up. In the head of the window are five cinquefoils, the two lowest of which are respectively appropriated to the two Sacraments, with five subordinate subjects in the foliations around each, typical or otherwise illustrative of them. The three remaining cinquefoils, which are comprised, with three spandrels, in one great circle, contain representations of the Last Judgment, and several of the prophetic visions of the Apocalypse, connected in meaning with that event. The whole is designed in the style of the thirteenth century, (of which the windows of the Temple Church furnish a familiar modern example), and exhibits much of the symbolism which characterises the religious art of that period. From the extreme minuteness, however, of all the subjects, it is almost impossible to distinguish their details, except from the chancel, a part of the church from which the congregation will generally be removed. This peculiarity has been adopted upon principle by the designers, who, we understand, are two unprofessional gentlemen connected with the parish. Their aim has been not to obtrude upon observation a conspicuous glass picture, which might be found by some distracting to the attention during public worship; but, primarily, to cover an important entrance of light with a rich and brilliant coloured screen, thereby soothing the eye, and aiding solemnity of feeling, without disturbing the mind; and then, as a secondary object, to fill each

part with elaborate meaning, which, by a closer inspection on a suitable occasion those who desire may unravel and study as a theological composition. The glass has been supplied by Messrs. Ward and Nixon, at a cost of about £200.

The window at the west-end of the nave was presented by the Vicar, and bears his own and his wife's arms blazoned in the three principal lights. It consists chiefly of ancient glass imported from Cologne, with considerable additions by Messrs. Ward and Nixon, who have arranged and fitted up the whole.

The principal window of the south transept, presented by the ladies of the parish, contains two figures of St. Peter and St. Paul, with a few sacred symbols. Both this and the preceding are what the French term "Grisailles," i.e. windows with a white ground relieved by a running decoration pattern in positive colours, as distinguished from "mosaïques" (such as the chancel window) when the ground is of the same quality with the figures.

On the east side of this transept is a window in a later style of art, containing figures of Moses and Christ, under two canopies, with the donor's arms above, and an inscription below, recording its erection by a gentleman of the parish (Augustine Robinson, Esq.), as a monument to one of his family. These two windows in the transept are the original work of Messrs. Ward and Nixon.

The church contains about 1500 sittings, there being no pews. The entire cost of the structure and fittings is stated at £18,000, raised by rate and voluntary subscription. It is altogether a remarkably fine church; and "a fitting place of worship for the inhabitants of a large and enlightened district."

COST OF THE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE METROPOLIS.—The Commissioners of Woods and Forests, in their 21st report, state, with regard to the improvements in the metropolis, in the several lines of those improvements authorised by the Acts 3 and 4 Victoria, cap. 12, they have, since the dates of those acts, completed purchases to the amount, in the whole, of £457,844 15s. 10d., and have contracted for further purchases to the amount, in the whole, of £121,617 13s. 10d.; and besides these, the purchases now remaining to be made, in order to clear the whole of the ground required for completing the several lines of improvement, it is estimated will cost the further sum of £54,256 5s., or thereabouts, viz. 1.—In the line from Oxford-street to Holborn they have completed purchases to the amount of £211,684 14s. 10d., and have contracted for further purchases to the amount of £56,969 3s. 4d.; and besides these, there remain to be made purchases estimated to cost the sum of £14,571 15s. Thus this new line of street will have cost, in purchases of property alone, nearly £290,000. Secondly.—In the line from Bow-street to Charlotte-street, Bloomsbury, they have completed purchases to the amount of £70,958 15s. 3d., and have contracted for further purchases to the amount of £30,909 11s. 9d.; and besides these, there remain to be made purchases estimated to cost the sum of £17,595, or thereabouts. Thirdly.—In the line from the London Docks to Spitalfields church, they have completed purchases to the amount of £96,749 16s. 11d., and have contracted for further purchases to the amount of £30,336 8s. 7d.; and besides these there remain to be made purchases estimated to cost the sum of £6740, or thereabouts. Fourthly.—In the line from Coventry-street to Long-acre, the Commissioners have completed purchases to the amount of £77,078 5s. 10d., and they have contracted for further purchases to the amount of £89,202 12s. 2d.; and besides these, there remain to be made purchases estimated to cost the sum of £8997 10s., or thereabouts. And fifthly.—In the line from East Smithfield to Rosemary-lane, they have completed purchases to the amount of £12,200; and besides these, there remain to be made purchases estimated to cost the sum of £7252, or thereabouts. It appears that of the sum of £500,000 mentioned in the Commissioners' 19th report, to have been borrowed of the Equitable Assurance Company, for the purposes of these improvements, upon the security of certain portions of the land revenue of the Crown in Middlesex, and of moneys arising from interest on Exchequer Bills, and profit on the sale and purchase of those bills, in which part of that loan was temporarily invested—from the sale of old materials, and from rents of property purchased for the purposes of these improvements, there remained a balance of £1420 6s. 6d. These funds being nearly expended, the Commissioners are taking measures for obtaining a further loan of £250,000, which they find "it will be necessary to raise for the purpose of making the several remaining purchases requisite for the completion of these improvements."

ST. AMANT.

The subject of our engraving—the first of a series of portraits of eminent chess-players—may safely be pronounced the most brilliant player of the present day.

Mons. St. Amant, when young, filled a situation as Clerk to the Colonies, in which he remained a few years. Finding such occupation monotonous, he returned to Paris, joined the theatrical profession, and appeared at the Theatre Français as a comedian. After two or three first appearances he abandoned this line of life, and subsequently became, and is now, a wine-merchant. It was not until after he had fretted his hour on the stage that he applied himself studiously to chess.

It must have been between the years 1834 and 1835 that he first gained celebrity in a match with Mons. Mouret, the gentleman who for some considerable time directed the moves of the Automaton. This match he lost by one or two games only. In a severe contest (in 1837) with that excellent man, Mons. Boncourt, he equally distinguished himself. This match took place at the house of Mons. Alexandre, the founder of the Chess Club in Paris. It was in some of the games then played that St. Amant first used the Evans Gambit. This strong attacking opening, then but little known in Paris, completely paralysed all the efforts of Mons. Boncourt to win a game, for some little time. Mons. St. Amant had, however, lost too many games in the commencement of the match to enable him to regain a sufficient number to claim the victory. His games with all the first players—Le Petit Juif, De la Bourdonnais (who gave him a pawn and two moves), &c. gave promise of his future excellence. In the year 1836, and again we believe, in 1839, St. Amant visited London, played with our best players, and returned to his home crowned with victories. Content with the honours he had so well earned, he discontinued chess for two years, and it was not until he commenced to edit "La Palamede," in 1842, that we find him gathering fresh laurels.



ST. AMANT.

He is at present in the prime of life—aged about forty-five. His play is of the brilliant school: some of the games won by him in the late match, presenting to the chess student, examples of the most imaginative combinations.

His uniform kindness to all members of the Cercle des Echecs has deservedly secured him many friends; and his gentlemanly and hospitable behaviour to all strangers who have the good fortune to visit that celebrated club, entitle him to our greatest respect.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—"J. S." and "J. G."—Their problems have been received.

"C. A. P."—His solution is incorrect. Two.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM No. 53.

- | WHITE. | BLACK. |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Q Kt P 1 ch | King to Q Kt 3rd * |
| 2. K Kt to Q B 4th ch | King to Q B 2nd |
| 3. Q Kt to Q 5th ch | King to Q sq |
| 4. K P 1 ch | King to his sq |
| 5. K Kt to Q 6th ch | Kt takes Kt |
| 6. B checks at K Kt 6th ch | Kt covers |
| 7. Kt mates at Q B 7th | |

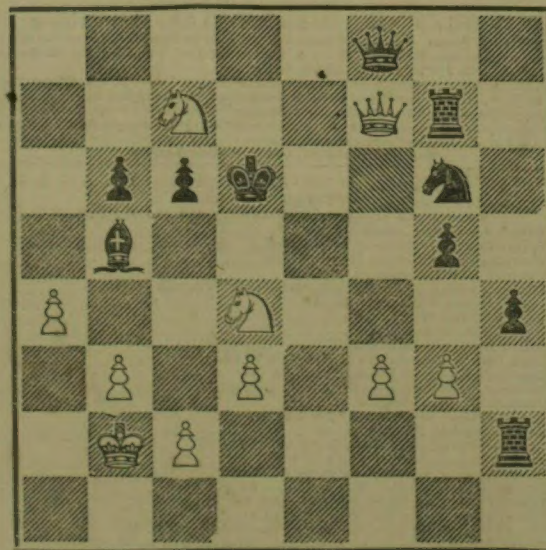
* If Black moves to Q R 4th, White mates in two moves.

PROBLEM. No. 54.

By H. TURNER, Esq.

White to move and mate in three moves.

BLACK.



WHITE.

The Solution in our next.